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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

THE uncertainty as to what is to be the real character of the summer in politics seems to last as long as the doubtful weather which we are all wishing the same summer to supersede. It is indeed, we think, hopeless to expect, now that last year's war has set all the nationalities astir, anything like permanent quiet in Europe. But still one would like to know the prospects ahead of us, if only for a fortnight at a time. The want of any definiteness about foreign prospects has much to do with people's comparative indifference to mere domestic questions. When thrones are in danger—vast armies on foot—the Eastern difficulty coming on the tapis again—it is not easy to get the English people, whose funds rise and fall according to the state of the Paris Bourse, to stick tranquilly to Reform Bills and internal finance. The *Times* preaches a languid funeral sermon in advance over a bill for improving the Constitution; and the most popular magazines of the day gives precedence, in its June number, to a plan for defending London.

However disturbing the state of Europe may be to us in this way, there is no use in trying to shut our eyes to it. If we once endeavoured to settle it that Europe was nothing to us, that would not prevent us and our concerns being a great deal to Europe. Wherever we have merchant-ships going, or our flag flying, what happens in the political world must affect us, and we ought to be ready with a principle and a course of action. If we withdraw there is a gentleman across the water quite ready to act without our concurrence, and to make our position subordinate to his own. In fact, the value of the nonintervention doctrine consists in our refraining from taking any initiative to alter the political affairs of other countries, but it does not justify us in withdrawing from the scene when existing arrangements have been broken in upon from within such countries or from without. The instinct which teaches the British people that our dignity and importance in Europe are vitally connected with our wealth and happiness is so wise a one that its attendant inconveniences ought to be borne as cheerfully as possible. A temporary lack of interest in things domestic is one of the prices England pays for the restoration of the Bonaparte dynasty with its well-planned encouragements to freedom in the South.

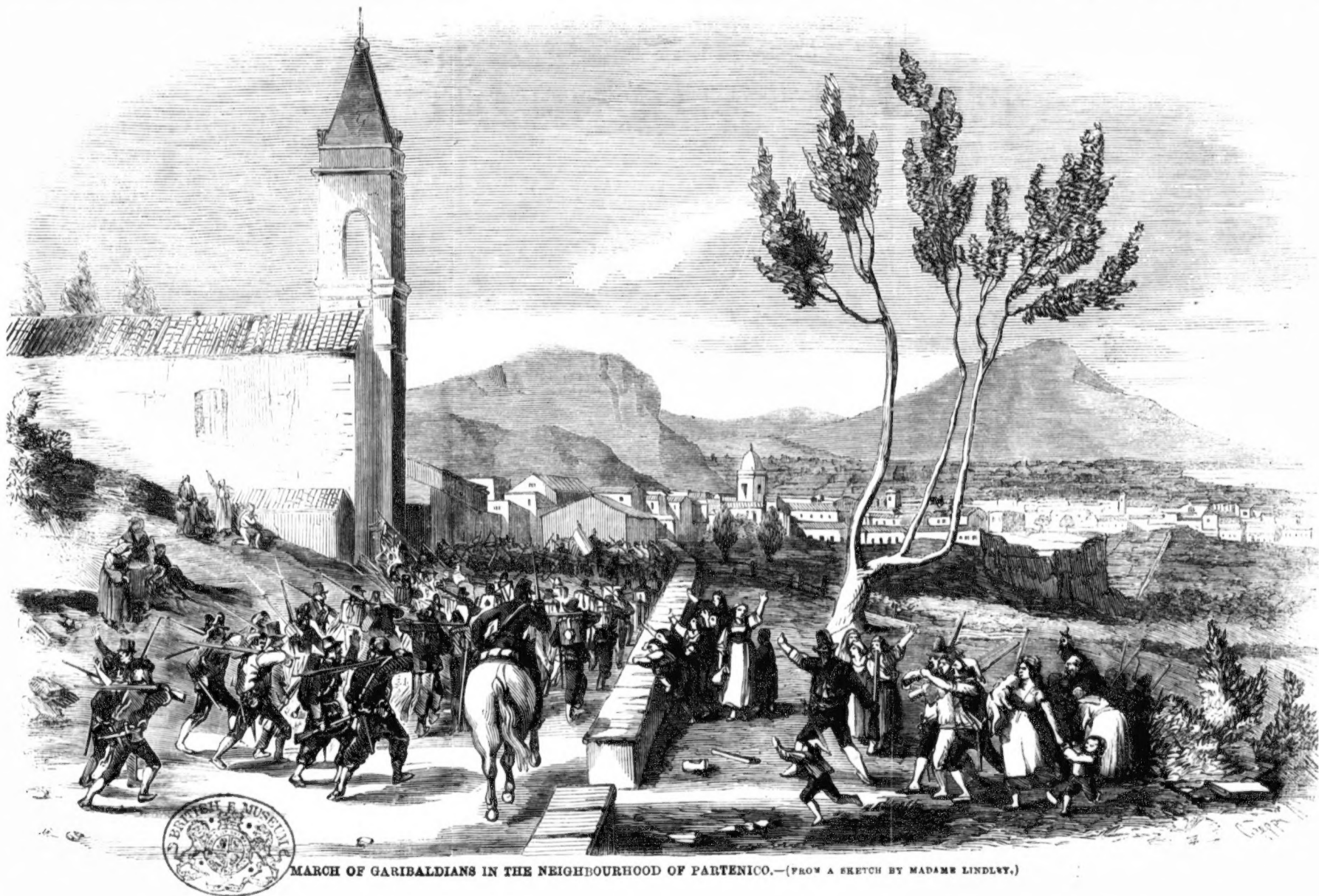
The struggles of that cause under such odd patronage furnish an endless source of interest to the impartial observer. An ancient proverb tells us that a long spoon is needed by him who sups with—Somebody. Now, this is just the kind of way in which they are partaking of the refreshment of liberty on the

other side of the Alps. Cavour is using his spoon with dexterity, but in fear and trembling. The illustrious host wants it done quickly and paid for quickly. The other guests (it is a supper where everybody contributes his share) demur; and one gallant fellow has gone off to another room, determined, like Oliver Twist, to have more. Garibaldi, it seems agreed, is prospering in this search. In England we wish him well. And yet we shall gain nothing (let him triumph ever so) but the pleasure of seeing a certain number more of our fellow-creatures free. Indirectly we may benefit, by-and-by, for a renewed Italy would renew commerce, and open fresh markets to our trade. But we want no aggrandisement of the territorial kind, and it is our duty to let our sympathies go the whole way with the movement, if successful. The Bourbons have long forfeited any claim to our regard, having been as ungrateful in one branch as in another. But neither will we countenance their Bonapartist or Muratist rivals in attempts to make family capital out of Italian popular success. It is our interest, as much as that of the Italians themselves, that Italy should be powerful, united, and independent of all foreign Powers or houses. This principle ought to dictate our policy at the present moment. We ought to be prepared to discountenance any Imperial wish to make profit out of the new revolution. For the moment the French Emperor watches and waits. He threatens the Pope with the withdrawal of his troops, but does not withdraw them. He permits Sardinia to proceed on her way, but countenances Lamoricière. He does not allow Garibaldi to be denounced in his press, but neither does the bold adventurer meet encouragement there. There is no solid foundation for a character of cunning than a temperament of phlegm.

Meanwhile, with Italy on the verge, apparently, of a new war, the "sick man" is again having clinical lectures delivered upon him by Russian and French physicians. It is altogether premature to discuss as settled the supposed understanding between those two Powers about the Turkish Government. If the Russian Emperor honestly means only that the Christians in the provinces are to be protected, England will be willing to act with him, and there needs none of this mystery about the affair. But if the Christians in that part of the world are to be to Russia what "oppressed nations" are to France—convenient pretexts when there is aggression meditated—we may look out for such wars as have not been seen since the great French Revolutionary one. There is nothing impossible in the notion that France may be willing to bargain with the Czar, however. It is just the alliance that would suit her if she proposes to defy

England and Germany; and it is no injustice to the French to say that, with their military traditions, an attack on Turkey would not be so shocking to their public opinion as to that of Great Britain. Here nobody wishes that terms had been come to for the spoliation with Nicholas. But the French have been familiarised from their cradles with the notion of overrunning other countries, and have shown in a dozen ways their hankering after more power in the East and in the Mediterranean. We hesitate in assigning to the Czar any scheme so vast and so guilty as that now constantly discussed in the European press. Still, the times are such that it is safest to expect the worst; and even such a contingency ought to be reckoned for as an alliance between France and Russia to dispose of the Eastern difficulty without us, and in spite of us. What will the British public say should the combination come plump upon us for a decision one of these days? It will not, we should premise, be at all incumbent upon us to fight at once if we do not like it. On the contrary, if coaxing can keep us quiet, that, as saving their Majesties trouble, will be infinitely preferred. It will be for us to look on—to witness the breaking-up of the Treaty of 1856—the violation of the neutrality of the Dardanelles—the occupation of Alexandria, &c., &c.; and we shall still be able to console ourselves with the reflection that the Turk is not worth fighting for, and that war is very expensive. Indeed, that a large party will hold that language there cannot be a doubt; and that the Turkish Government in Europe is a wretched and painful anomaly is no less certain. But we must not suppose that if these considerations determine us to stand aside and let the work go on we shall ever hold the same position in Europe again. The blow to our actual strength in the Mediterranean would be something terrible; but the damage would be irreparable to our prestige.

While such topics give a strange piquancy to the Estimates, and throw the Bankruptcy Bill into the shade (to say nothing of a score of subjects tending to make the hot months a scene of hurry and weariness to Parliament), they are intimately connected with the somewhat ludicrous incident lately reported from Germany. That the French Emperor should complain of a private letter of the Prussian Regent is just one of those ludicrous things that has a very ugly look and a very serious bearing. But, when taken in connection with the Regent evading an interview with his Majesty, and added to the fact that the Prussian Army is being reorganised, it harmonises in its gloomy colouring with the general European picture just now. We are of the way of thinking of those who insist on the



MARCH OF GARIBALDIANS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF PARTENICO.—(FROM A SKETCH BY MADAME LINDLEY.)

necessity of a strict union between this country and Prussia and hope everything from the ascendancy of Prussia among the German States. No German Sovereign could have a better time for coming to good terms with his subjects and securing the popular affection to his dynasty than now, when the national feeling is being stirred to its depths by the prospect of a struggle for the national independence. Some of the Potentates are supposed to be below this mark—to be weak enough, or base enough, to listen to the voice of the foreign tempter. But we have lately seen in Italy what becomes of monarchs who forget that it is their primary duty to be national in sentiment; and we may hope that the first moment of real danger would be the last moment of such recreants' rule.

GARIBALDIANS PASSING THROUGH PARTENICO.

THE scene represented on the preceding page is from a sketch taken at the time when some of Garibaldi's followers were passing through Partenico, on their way to join him at Catalauni. Partenico is a small town of some 20,000 inhabitants, nearly the whole of whom turned out to welcome the volunteers, and wish them Godspeed. Between Monreale and Partenico is the pass over the hills which surround Palermo. Our readers will remember that among the many contradictory telegrams which crowd upon each other in the daily journals was one which reported that Garibaldi had been defeated by the Royal troops near Partenico. Later news tells a different story. It seems that on this occasion Garibaldi completely routed the Royal troops, who entered Palermo in scattered remnants, and in an exhausted condition.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

At an agricultural meeting at Tarbes M. Fould delivered a speech, in which, after dwelling upon the material progress which France has made lately, he took a political turn. M. Fould eulogised the moderation shown by the Emperor after the late war, and said:—"This moderation in the past is a certain guarantee for the future. The Emperor has several times proclaimed that he only wished to ensure to France the rank which belonged to her." M. Fould advised people not to be led away by the feeling of uneasiness which parties are strenuously endeavouring to spread. Notwithstanding the events which disturb some States—notwithstanding the agitation and mistrust which those parties attempt to excite in the public mind—"France, quiet and prosperous, can devote herself with safety to public works. She knows the Emperor to be strong enough to inspire all with respect for her rights, and to be too loyal a neighbour and too faithful an ally to menace the rights of others."

The Session of the Corps Legislatif has been adjourned till the 30th instant.

The Dowager Empress of Russia is to meet the Emperor Napoleon at Lyons. She will afterwards proceed to Geneva.

The health of Prince Jerome is in such a state as to leave very little, if any, hope of his recovery. He has been attacked by congestion of the brain.

A telegram from Marseilles dated May 25 says:—"Six vessels of the fleet were recalled yesterday. The fleet has received orders to complete provisioning. There is nothing to indicate an imminent departure, and the order to provision is believed to be only a precautionary measure."

"It is hard to say," remarks the Paris correspondent of the *Times*, "whether the success of the Garibaldi expedition would be viewed with satisfaction or not at the Court of the Tuileries. The independence of Sicily would doubtless involve the overthrow of the Bourbon throne in Naples, and perhaps that of the Papal Government. But, if any doubt exists as to the real wishes of the Court of the Tuileries, apparently there is none at the Court of the Palais Royal. The many persons who have the honour to share the confidence of his Imperial Highness Prince Napoleon, and who profess to speak his sentiments very frankly, point to Rome as the future capital of the vast Italian kingdom of his father-in-law. Whether the Pope is to remain in the Eternal City as spiritual chief, while Victor Emmanuel rules all Italy as temporal Sovereign, on the plan of the Japanese Government, or whether he follows the Abbé Michon's suggestion, and retires to Jerusalem, is not stated."

SWITZERLAND.

The Federal Council has issued another diplomatic paper arguing that it is not the treaty about Savoy, but the declaration of the five great Powers, which constitutes the guarantee for the neutrality of Switzerland.

The Federal Council has, under conditions of reciprocity, proposed to the Cabinet of Turin to apply to the Italian territories annexed to Sardinia the treaties of commerce, extradition, and other international conventions existing between Switzerland and the former Sardinian kingdom.

PRUSSIA.

The Prince Regent closed the Chambers with a speech, in which he said:—

My Government is making very serious efforts to bring about such solutions of the questions that occupy the European Cabinets as will respond to the necessities of the balance of politics.

The principles that direct my Government in its relations with the German Confederation, and on the important affairs submitted to the Federal Diet, have been explained to you in the course of the present Session. My Government will continue to remain faithful to these principles, and will not cease to see that respect for the recognised rights of others is the safeguard of its own rights. Notwithstanding the differences that exist in relation to important questions, the sentiments of all the German Governments and peoples are in unison—with deep satisfaction I state it—with mine and those of the Prussian people—namely, to preserve an unshakable fidelity to the common country, and to be imbued with the conviction that the independence of the nation and the integrity of the territory are points in the presence of which disappear all internal questions and differences.

After some reference to internal questions, the Prince Regent continued:—

I deeply regret that the law on the subject of military service, the most important of all those which are submitted to you, could not be voted in time. The important bearing of this question, the difficulty of its impartial appreciation, caused a delay in the discussion, which in the presence of the general situation might not have been without danger, if you had not accorded to my Government the means of augmenting the military force of the country. I thank you for the unanimity with which you voted those resources. It is a pledge for me that the necessity for reform in the army will, at last, be justly appreciated, and that this question, momentarily adjourned, but the importance of the solution of which is generally recognised, will, at last, be decided at the earliest opportunity.

It is still indispensable to maintain the charges resulting from the additional taxes; I am pleased, however, to know that the portion of these demands to which this resource has not been appropriated will be completely covered by the surplus of receipts of 1859, without having recourse to the treasury of the State.

The results of the legislative period that has just expired leave much to be desired; but I count upon the patriotic spirit of the country, and the full and entire confidence which exists between the Sovereign and the nation. Depending upon this reciprocal confidence, on the faithful and traditional sentiments of the people, on the increased strength of the army, and on the state of our finance, Prussia can await with security, and with the protection of God, the events now preparing.

In dismissing you I implore the Divine goodness for our King, so cruelly afflicted.

The story of a very rude note addressed by the Danish Government to that of Prussia, on account of speeches made by the Liberal as well as the Conservative members of the Prussian Landtag in the discussion upon Holstein, is confirmed. The reply of Baron Schleinitz has been polite but firm.

The Grand Duke Nicholas arrived at Berlin on Thursday week, and took up his residence at the Russian Embassy. At Grossbeeren his

Imperial Highness met the Prince Regent and Prince Frederick William.

AUSTRIA.

The first Session of the enlarged Council of the Empire was to have opened on Thursday. The session, we are told, is to be only of a preparatory character—to deliberate upon the bases of the new governmental edifice.

A decree abolishes the office of political provincial governors of Dalmatia, and refers their former attributes and functions to the regular district authorities of this province.

The Chamber of Advocates has petitioned the Ministry of Justice for the re-establishment of the criminal process law of 1850, with or without a jury, and for the introduction of verbal public civil process.

ITALY.

SARDINIA.

After a long discussion, the Chamber of Deputies has approved the treaty of cession of Savoy and Nice by 229 against 33 votes. Twenty-three members abstained from voting. Ratazzi, who spoke strongly against the cession, was among these. Count Cavour himself confessed that the whole affair was defensible on no other ground but that of dire necessity. He attempted to excuse the Government by arguing that Nice and Savoy were no parts of Italy proper. Had they been such he would have thought even Venice bought too dearly by their cession, the utterance of which sentiment was loudly applauded by the Chamber. After the cession had been voted, Ratazzi demanded some explanations, to which Count Cavour replied:—"We have no guarantees from France in favour of the annexed provinces of Italy, as we have not asked for any. We have considered the declarations of France, that she would ensure a policy of nonintervention on the part of the foreign Powers, to be sufficient. France has not exercised the least pressure respecting the autonomy of Tuscany. She has limited herself to simple non-official diplomatic conversations, in which we have declared that the autonomy of Tuscany must disappear. To this France has not made the least objection."

Some inhabitants of the county of Nice are getting up a petition against the dismemberment of the communes of Tende and Briga, notwithstanding the unanimous voting in favour of annexation to France. Addresses to the Emperor are being signed.

The *Pays* says that a Ministerial crisis at Turin is imminent, but it anticipates that Count Cavour will remain at the head of the remodelled Cabinet.

Accounts from Turin state that Corsi, Archbishop of Pisa, having, on his interrogatory by the authorities in that capital, stated that he had received superior orders not to acknowledge the Regent at Florence (Prince Carignan), has been informed that his removal from the territory of the Italian monarchy must ensue, and that the large domains and revenues, principally the great pine forests between Pisa and the seaboard, must lapse to the Crown and be administered for church purposes until Parliament decide otherwise. It is the richest mitre in Italy after that of Rome.

ROME.

There is a doubtful rumour that Lamoricière contemplates resigning the command of the Papal army. One account of the matter is that the General feels outraged by a despatch from the Minister of War requesting him not to interfere in the operations of the military administration as regards the purchase of equipments, but to confine himself to the organisation of the army.

Prince Wolonski, the new Russian Plenipotentiary, left Rome on the 23rd for Naples. It is asserted that he is the bearer of very precise instructions in reference to Sicily.

In the official report of the affair at the Grotto near Montefiascone the gendarmes are much commended. The brother of Orsini, author of the attempt, is dead. The governor of the town of Aqua Pendente being alarmed took to flight with the police. He has been removed from office.

SPAIN.

The Cortes were opened on the 25th ult. by the Queen in person. The Royal speech recalls the war with Morocco, which, it says, has ended in a glorious peace, and in a treaty compensating, as much as possible, for the expenses of the treasury. The relations of Spain with all the Powers are satisfactory. The convention with Rome will tranquillise the conscience and facilitate progress. The Pope has thus received a token of the attachment of the Queen and the nation. The Queen deprecates the Carlist attempt, but, the danger being removed, is happy to accord an amnesty. The Queen, in conclusion, reckons upon the union of the nation, which will ensure stability to the Throne and happiness to the country.

The Madrid journals express the opinion that the Government will demand of the Cortes authorisation to increase the army to 200,000 men; and some of them state that the garrisons of the Balearic Isles are to be forthwith augmented by 20,000 men. The steam-frigate *Colon* and the corvette *Villa de Bilbao* had been ordered to proceed to Naples.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

Letters from Constantinople announce the illness of the Sultan. The brother of the Sultan was confined in the Seraglio—a reactionary plot in his favour having been discovered.

A Belgrade letter states that the Government of Serbia is making great military preparations. It is increasing the artillery, and intends to form two new regiments of infantry and one of cavalry. A note has been sent to the Consuls of the great Powers, explaining the causes for these armaments, which are said to be rendered necessary by the warlike preparations made by the Porte in the adjacent provinces, and which can only be intended against the Principality.

AMERICA.

The Japanese Embassy arrived at Washington on the 14th ult. n were received with great military and civic display. Their interview with the President was to take place on the 16th ult.

The barque *Wildfire* had been seized off Cuba with a cargo of 500 slaves, and taken into New Orleans. It was thought that the slaves would be sent back.

Mexican advices state that a battle had been fought at San Luis Potosi, in which the Liberals were completely victorious. The second corps of Miramon's army had been cut to pieces.

The Baltimore Democratic Convention has nominated Mr. Bell for the Presidency. Mr. Everett has also been nominated. The Republicans of Chicago have nominated Mr. Lincoln. The Illinois Convention have nominated Mr. Hamlin and Mr. Maine as Vice-President. Mr. Seward has determined upon closing his senatorial career.

INDIA.

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS.

The Calcutta correspondent of the *Times*, writing on April 23, says of Mr. Wilson's financial scheme:—

"So far as it is possible to judge, the difficulties of the situation, aggravated as they have been, are yet not beyond the capacity of the Government to overcome. The reports that have come in from many parts of India, including some from Madras, continue to show that the people everywhere expect taxation, and are ready to submit to it. Many considerations have combined to induce the great mass of the population throughout the country to regard Mr. Wilson's scheme with even a favourable eye. It has not escaped attention that every man receiving less than 16r. 12s. per mensem is altogether free from the operation of the tax. To the peasantry in general, then, who do not earn one half that sum, and who constitute pre-eminently the muscular element of the population, the measure does not appear unacceptable. It has been felt for some time past that something in the way of legislation has been impending, and the very uncertainty existing as to the shape that legislation would take has tended more than anything else to disquiet men's minds. It is now certain that wherever it has been possible to acquaint the people with the details of the proposed measure, and to ascertain their opinion regarding it, that feeling of disquietude has been changed

for one of surprise at the moderation of the Government. The attempted disturbance at Peshawur affords not only an illustration of this statement, but places in a strong light two of the most striking characteristics of this people—their readiness to imagine, and their inclination on all regular matters to submit to the voice of authority. It appears that, misled by an idea that each householder was to be called upon to pay 35r. as a tax on his own account, 30r. for his wife, 5r. for each living child, and half that sum for every one that had been buried, a mob of natives assembled tumultuously round the house of the Deputy Commissioner. Explanation, however, was all that was required to satisfy their minds. No sooner were they authoritatively informed of the actual rates proposed to be levied than contentment took the place of disorder. It is with the view, probably, to prevent in other parts of India any similar ebullition that the Government is taking the greatest pains to disseminate throughout the country expositions of the new taxes adapted to the several dialects of India."

THE INDIGO RIOTS.

In Bengal Proper, notwithstanding some partial disturbances, the indigo atmosphere is clearing. It is true that there has been a breach of the peace in Patna, but it appears to have been of merely a desultory nature. Some of the riots had commenced burning the indigo plant; the deputy magistrate turned out with thirty military police to put a stop to their outrages. On reaching the spot the magistrate halted his force and, more Richard II., proceeded to harangue the rioters. He had made a mistake, however, in not previously securing their Wat Tyler, for scarcely had he opened his mouth than he was charged, knocked off his horse, severely beaten, and only rescued by the fidelity of one of his attendants. Two of the police were taken prisoners, one of whom has since returned severely wounded. In another part of the country the riots, considering that they had been deceived by the Government, brought all their ploughs and piled them in a heap in front of the magistrate's house. These, however, have been but partial and easily-suppressed demonstrations, and, as a rule, the riots have commenced the performance of their contracts. In some cases where they have refused they have been punished under the new Act.

The death of Major S. C. Macpherson is announced. This gentleman's influence at the Court of Gwalior during the rebellion contributed more than any other circumstance to bind the Maharajah to our interests, and to keep his army inactive when movement in any direction might have been fatal to our interests.

CHINA.

The ultimatum of France and England, requiring the Chinese Government to make a full apology, to admit a vessel of war to Tien-Tsin, and to admit Mr. Bruce to Peking, was handed over to the Chinese authorities at Shanghai on the 8th of March. An answer was returned on the 7th of April. This answer was still kept secret when the mail left, and the most contradictory rumours were in circulation in regard to it, from a positive acceptance to a positive denial. The Chinese said it had been accepted on the condition that the expeditionary force be sent away. All that the Envoys had allowed to transpire was that they considered the answer unsatisfactory.

There is no confirmation of the rumour of a collision between the Russians and the Court of Peking.

Transports from India with troops were arriving at Hong-Kong daily in tow of steamers, and the steamer *Berenice* has brought from Suez a battery of Armstrong's guns.

The rebels were still very troublesome to the Chinese Government. They had made formidable appearance in the neighbourhood of Canton, and were threatening other large cities in the interior. In addition to this evil, the southern provinces were suffering a dearth of the people's chief article of food, rice.

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

According to a telegram from Vienna, the proposals made by Russia to the other great Powers for an inquiry into the real condition of the Christians in Turkey, occasions a frequent exchange of opinions between France and the other great Powers. M. Thouvenel has declared to the Austrian Ambassador that the Cabinet of the Tuileries has seen with regret that Russia has prematurely brought forward the Oriental question; but as this question has been officially put forward, France considers that she acts in conformity with the interests of Europe by associating herself with the proposal of Russia, as otherwise a pretence would be given to that Power to assume the exclusive protectorate of the Christian subjects of the Sultan. M. Thouvenel adds that during his Embassy at Constantinople he became convinced that the Hatti-Humayoun of 1856 will long remain a dead letter, unless the Porte changes its system of Government. Without recognising the urgency of the inquiry proposed by Russia France is disposed to acknowledge its principle, and she invites the great Powers to do the same, leaving, however, to their agents in the East to ascertain the exactitude of the facts which have been brought forward by Prince Gortschakoff.

The *Courrier de Dimanche* says that M. Thouvenel has notified to the Emperor Alexander that he differs from him as to the means which should be employed for remedying existing evils:—"The French Government finds that the Treaty of Paris of 1856, on which it is disposed to rest, clearly points out the conduct to be pursued, and distinctly forbids the Powers from interfering, either collectively or separately, between the Sultan and his subjects, or on the internal administration of the empire." The *Courrier* adds that "the Powers, undecided as yet as to the form in which their representations should be made to the Porte, will not, however, delay in taking some collective step towards inducing the Sultan to fulfil the promises made to his subjects and to Europe."

The Paris correspondent of the *Express* says:—"It is within my knowledge that one of the Emperor's most intimate councillors lately said, in the hearing of several people, these words: 'We are on the point of twisting the neck of England on the Oriental question!'"

Meanwhile, the *Journal de St. Petersburg* publishes a telegram announcing that the Ottoman Government is sending three commissions into the provinces of the north and south of empire, Roumelia, and Syria. These commissions will institute a regular inquiry with regard to the complaints of the Christians, under the presidency of the members of the Council.

THE DEFENCE OF THE COLONIES.—The expenditure of this country for the military defence of the colonies (not including the Mediterranean stations and military posts) exceeded £2,000,000 in the last year for which the accounts are complete, employing about 27,000 regular troops. The Dutch colonies contribute about £2,500,000 to the home exchequer, and the Spanish colonies about £1,000,000; while the colonies of Great Britain, speaking generally, have been free from the obligation of contributing, either by personal service or money payment, towards their own defences. There are grave doubts whether this expenditure of ours is wise, whether Imperial garrisons in every part of the empire can possibly be sufficient to resist hostile expeditions, and whether the predominance of our Navy is not the true safeguard of those colonies which have no inherent powers of resistance from their nature or remote situation, or the character and number of the population. With some of the colonies there are definite arrangements on the subject of expenditure. Malta, Mauritius, the Ionian Islands, and Ceylon pay a contribution into the Exchequer in aid of military funds; and New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia pay for military buildings and defences and the expense of any troops they may require beyond a specified number. When General Peel was in office he proposed that the principle should be extended to all the colonies.

A MAD BAKER.—A lunatic presented himself at one of the gates of the Tuileries a few days since, and requested to be allowed to see the Emperor, to submit to his Majesty a new plan for making bread in any quantity at scarcely any expense. The poor man turned out to be a journeyman baker. To the Commissary of Police before whom he was taken he said that he had made the wonderful discovery that, by rolling a small quantity of paste in a peculiar manner in his hand, by blowing on it, and by pronouncing certain words known to himself alone, he could produce twenty or thirty loaves at least. "The invention is certainly an admirable one," said the commissary, "and, if you please, I will immediately send you to a large house in which you can think over your discovery at leisure." The lunatic gladly consented, and was conveyed to the asylum at Bicêtre.

THE SICILIAN REVOLUTION.

PALERMO OCCUPIED BY GARIBALDI.

The news from Sicily since we last appeared may be thus reduced, stripped of much that has proved to be false; for we have heard half-a-dozen times this week, from official sources, that Garibaldi's troops had been beaten, cut up, pursued; and even that the General was "endeavouring to embark."

On the 25th ult. the Neapolitans were still masters of Palermo, but Garibaldi, encamped on the heights, was preparing to attack it with all his forces. General Salzano, the Neapolitan leader, was decided (report said) to defend the place to the last extremity. He had prepared his troops for the conflict, raised batteries at the gates of the town, the fire of which would cross with that of the citadel, and had given the Neapolitan frigates orders to take up a position in order to co-operate in the general defence. At the same time he had recommended the Consuls of the various foreign Powers to provide for the security of their countrymen, who might, he said, be in danger during the struggle. In consequence, the French and English residing in the town had taken refuge in the vessels of war of their nations. The Austrian vessels had, also, received on board a considerable number of persons. The attack was expected on the 27th.

Catania had been evacuated by the Neapolitans; the garrison of the fort at Syracuse had capitulated; so that the whole of the island, save Messina, Palermo, and some towns on the northern coast, was in the hands of the insurgents, apparently.

On Sunday, the 27th, the attack on Palermo was made; and on the same day Garibaldi entered the town. The besieging forces, we are told, "were not numerous, but, being commanded by the heroic leader in person, the victory was obtained. The head-quarters of Garibaldi are in the centre of the town."

A large part of the population rose to aid the insurgents. Seeing themselves worsted, the King's forces, by land and sea, bombarded the city for several hours. The casualties were numerous.

The number of Garibaldi's forces is variously stated at from 9000 to 40,000 men; nothing is certain, save that reinforcements have been dropping in to him from the sea, and that the peasantry join him in large numbers.

The troops opposed to Garibaldi were estimated a few days ago at 28,000, and they, too, were being reinforced.

The conflict at Calatufimi, on the 16th ult., appears to have been very disastrous for the Neapolitans. They were 6000 strong, and were totally routed, losing three guns and baggage, and having many killed and wounded.

The Neapolitans have assiduously reported the death of Garibaldi's General, Nino Bixio. At our latest advices he was still alive and unhurt.

FRANCE AND GERMANY.

The following article from the *Pays* is a fair specimen of that mingled truculence and cajolery which distinguishes the policy of France at present:—

Certain speeches delivered at Munich and Berlin, we do not know for what purpose, have had an effect in Germany, and occasion a fear that the political passions of a few men may mislead public opinion in this country. The President of the Provincial Council at Munich has thought himself called on to declare very unnecessarily that Germany would give her last man, her last horse, and her last florin, for her honour and her liberty. At the Prussian Chamber of Deputies a vehement orator, M. Mathis, in very energetic and injudicious phrases, and with much acerbity, spoke in praise of the Anglo-Prussian alliance as a means of providing against the eventualities which might, according to him, arise from the supposed understanding between Russia and France.

A portion of the German press has availed itself of these stormy imprudences for the purpose of exciting the German imagination. Happily the Prince Regent has since then given utterance to words better weighed and more conciliatory. We, however, do not the less owe a reply to the imprudent orators, and journals which they lead, if, indeed, they themselves are not led by the journals. We have some difficulty in understanding how writers can seek to propagate in Germany a spirit of suspicion and hostility towards France when French sentiments contrast so strikingly with such miserable insinuations. Let M. Mathis and the President of the Provincial Assembly of Munich be quiet. France has no such intention as that they endeavour to impute to her. France, on the contrary, professes a lively sympathy for Germany, which, believe us, is a response to the real public opinion of Germany—to the feeling which in her heart Germany maintains for us. This sympathy on the part of France has been proved by events in several instances, more especially as far as it relates to Prussia. It is impossible that the benevolent conduct of the Government in the affair of Neuchâtel can have been so soon forgotten at Berlin. It should be remembered at Berlin which was the Power who obtained for Prussia admittance into the Congress of Paris, in spite of certain errors during the Crimean war. It was the moderation, the generosity of France, which, if we recollect rightly, obtained this admittance for Prussia. The Government of the Emperor has seized every opportunity of testifying its cordial esteem for Germany. The hesitation and the ill-will even manifested here and there in places beyond the Rhine during the Italian war have not been able to alter this sentiment or influence our conduct.

In bringing together the events of to-day with these recollections, we are compelled to say that there is something almost of imprudence in the provocations more or less direct which certain journals and orators allow themselves to be drawn into. We trust that no Government would allow itself to follow them in this dangerous course. At bottom Germany is calm, since she knows well she is in no way menaced. Germany loves and honours France, for the true sentiments of France towards her are proved by irrefragable facts. It would be a criminal attempt, and at the same time a ridiculous error, to endeavour to turn into hostility towards us the pride of this loyal country. It would be well to abstain from this. We give this advice amicably to those who have exhibited this puerile conduct, and we hope that our intention in making these simple explanations will not be misunderstood.

THE TOPOGRAPHY OF SICILY.—Permit me, as a traveller in Sicily, to say that Marsala is full seventy miles from Palermo, and that Calatufimi, Aleamo, Partinico, and Monreale, are towns containing from 15,000 to 20,000 inhabitants each, and distant about a day's march from each other. Monreale, which is the see of an Archbishop, is situated on the slope of the hills which surround Palermo. Between Monreale and Partinico is the pass over these hills. If Garibaldi's forces once get possession of that pass the Royal forces will never cross the hills again. These hills are about half a mile in perpendicular height. The forces of the King of Naples are all Neapolitans or mercenary Swiss. There is not a single Sicilian regiment in the service. The Sicilians have never been allowed to carry arms or to be trained as soldiers. Let not your readers suppose that the fortifications of Palermo and Messina are easier to take by land than by sea. On the contrary, the guns of these fortresses point not outwards, against the enemy and the corsair, but inwards, against the town. I think the Castellamare of Palermo will be taken by Garibaldi. The citadel of Messina is much stronger. It is built on the sickle, or braccio, and it commands both the straits and the town. It is a modern fortification of great strength. Let us hope, therefore, that Garibaldi will be supplied in time with powerful artillery. In their last endeavour to gain their freedom the Sicilians melted the bronze statues of their unpopular kings to make guns and mortars that cannot be done again. Garibaldi will want help. Sicily, in all her struggles, has looked to England, and has sometimes complained that England has been unkind.—*Letter in the "Times."*

THE EASTERN QUESTION.—The *Prussian Gazette* of Berlin of the 25th ult. publishes an article on the Eastern question, which concludes as follows:—"Whatever may be the intentions of Russia or France, no one can deny that demands like those made on the Ottoman Government, and even the one to inquire into the state of the Christians, whether made by France and Russia alone or by all the great Powers, would cause grave dangers to Turkey, inasmuch as it would create profound agitation among both the Christian and the Mussulman population. We cannot likewise disguise from ourselves that an intervention in favour of the Christian population of Turkey will go much further—would, in fact, place in question the other stipulations of the Treaty of 1856. No doubt exists on that point—that the Treaty of 1856 has not solved the Eastern question, but only adjourned it. It was clear that Russia would, on the first opportunity, endeavour to free herself from the onerous conditions imposed on her by the treaty. She was believed to be occupied with internal reforms, and no attention was paid to the fact that by the fall of Schamyl the army of the Caucasus has become disposable. At the present moment no one can see clearly what are the projects and the objects of Russia; neither can it be stated positively to what extent France has given her assent to them. But it is necessary to watch events with the greatest attention, to take measures against the non-observance of treaties, and to count on the fact that an understanding between two great Powers does not constitute an understanding of Europe."

IRELAND.

THE POPE AND THE IRISH CONSTABULARY.—A Limerick paper asserts that no less than 6000 of the Irish constabulary are willing to resign, with a view of emigrating to Rome and other countries. About 250 of the county of Limerick force, it is added, have already done so, or are so disposed. "In Clare, Cork, and Kerry the police have similar inclinations, and are proving it."

POLITICAL ARRESTS IN THE NORTH.—Several accounts from the town of Dundalk announce the arrest there on Saturday of a large number of persons, said to be implicated in some illegal conspiracy; but whether connected with the old Ribbon confederation or the more recent Phoenix plot is not yet made very clear.

SCOTLAND.

LORD JOHN AND THE ITALIAN STRUGGLE.—Some time ago the working men of Glasgow, in public meeting assembled, adopted a resolution warmly thanking Lord John Russell for the sympathy which he has manifested on behalf of constitutional freedom during the Italian struggle. Lord John has returned a reply, in which he says "he has never hesitated to avow that, while our international obligations must be very carefully regarded, he cannot forget or disavow those sentiments in favour of liberty which every Englishman must entertain."

THE ABERDEEN BANK.—The litigation in the notorious case of the Aberdeen Bank, after having been protracted in the Scotch courts for ten years, is said at length to have been terminated by a compromise. The general features of this case were strongly analogous to those presented by that of the Western Bank of Scotland.

SHOT WITH A PEA.—The men of the 72nd and 71st Regiments, stationed at Durdoo Barracks, were engaged in rifle practice with blank cartridge when a boy named Watt, twelve years of age, was observed to press his hand to his head and to fall to the ground. He was removed to the Infirmary, where a green pea was extracted from the right temple, the pea resting close on the brain. Next day the boy died. One of the privates of the regiment, James Smith, has been apprehended on suspicion of having fired the pea. It is said that it was intended for one of the officers, and it is also stated that the man who was in rank before Smith when the volley was fired had part of his stock blown away by the force of the discharge. It is also reported that Smith had peas in his possession before the occurrence took place.

THE PROVINCES.

BOILER EXPLOSION AT CHILLINGTON.—An explosion took place at the Chillington Ironworks on Thursday week, resulting in serious injury to five of the workmen. One of the boilers collapsed and dislodged another, and the top of a tall stack was thrown down, damaging several workshops on which the debris fell. A portion of the dislodged bricks were propelled three or four hundred yards, and five of the workmen, more or less seriously injured, were removed to the hospital.

EDUCATION IN NORFOLK.—An action has been heard in the Norfolk County Court to recover £2 15s., alleged to be due on a promissory note. The following is a literal copy of this precious document:—"I here by promise to pay James Spragg sener Grimston the sum of Two Pounds 15 Shillings at my Disease Be fore My Body is Moved out of this House. Sined THOMAS HOWARD." "I have by dirty that i Witness this sined By Mr Thomas Howard. WILLIAM RUDD." The plaintiff, who admitted, in reply to the Judge, that he was bringing an action against a dead man, was nonsuited, the deceased, "Mr. Thomas Howard," not having left any will or any assets.

CRUELTY ON BOARD AN AMERICAN VESSEL.—The Deputy Coroner for the borough of Liverpool opened an inquest on Saturday on the body of Martin Moss, a Dutch seaman, who died at the Northern Hospital—apparently from ill usage on board the American ship *Ocean Monarch* during the voyage from New Orleans to Liverpool. The Coroner having decided that the witnesses must confine their evidence to whatever took place after the arrival of the ship at Liverpool, several of the crew deposed that while the vessel lay in the Mersey, and after she had docked, they had seen the second officer, Philander Hall, and the third mate, Daniel Devonport, repeatedly knock the deceased down with belaying-pins and kick him. The evidence of five or six witnesses was to the same effect. The surgeon at the Northern Hospital said he had made a post-mortem examination of the body, and was of opinion that the cause of death was inflammation of the lungs, which might be the result of such violence as that which had been described. One of the ribs on the left side was broken, but this he believed was an old fracture. The jury, after only a few minutes' consideration, found a verdict of "Man-slaughter" against Hall and Devonport; and the Coroner issued a warrant for their apprehension.

TERRIBLE ACCIDENT ON THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.

AN accident of a most extraordinary character, but unattended by fatal results (at any rate not immediately), took place on Wednesday evening at the London terminus of the Great Northern Railway, King's-cross, to a return excursion train, conveying passengers from Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield, Huddersfield, and other large towns in the north of England.

The train, which consisted of thirty-five carriages, two of them being luggage-vans, was due at King's-cross at 6.40 p.m., and was pretty punctual in its arrival. From some cause, however, the engine dashed at full pace through the station, actually leaped the platform at the end of it, a height of between five and six feet, carrying with it the tender, the break, and one or two carriages, and, proceeding on in its course, ran down the inclined plane immediately under the clock tower and across the Old St. Pancras-road, burst through the inclosure of the Metropolitan Railway Works, and, but for the immense quantity of earth lying there (the stuff excavated from the New-road tunnel), would have buried itself in the shaft of that undertaking. In passing under the archway the funnel and steam-pipe of the engine came in contact with the strong iron girder, and were smashed off the engine. Fortunately, the pitch of this girder was a few feet higher than the body of the engine itself, else it would have been torn from the abutments of brickwork which sustain it, involving the demolition of a large portion of the roof of the building, with the probable destruction of every person in the train.

It is almost needless to say that the engine, tender, and break were completely destroyed. The other carriages were more or less injured, many of the passengers sustaining serious wounds and contusions.

The fireman, Church, on finding that the train was rushing to destruction, leaped from the tender, and, falling flat upon the ground, escaped unhurt. The driver, Thomas Annis, however, remained at his post. How he has escaped unhurt is one of those mysteries which baffle explanation.

The cause of the accident is as yet unexplained, but the under-guard of the train has been arrested on the charge of being drunk and negligently omitting to perform his duty. So far as can be learnt at present, it would appear that the accident arose from the break not having been applied in time to retard the motion of the train.

The sufferers by the accident, most of whom were conveyed to their residences, are about fourteen in number.

SLAVE-TRADING IN THE WEST INDIES.—A case of kidnaping has been discovered which proves that a slave trade is being carried on between the West Indies and the Southern States of America. It appears that an American vessel, the *Allice Rodgers*, sailed last March from Montego Bay, on the north side of Jamaica, for the United States, with two black boys—natives of that place—on board, whom the captain of the vessel had persuaded to go with him. On her passage to Philadelphia, whither she was bound, she was compelled to put into the port of Norfolk, Virginia, where the captain took the lads on shore and offered them for sale. The authorities of that place had the captain taken into custody for violation of the laws of the United States, and the vessel and cargo were seized by the Deputy-Marshal. Great excitement prevailed in Montego Bay among the black population upon the receipt of this intelligence. It was brought by the ship *W. L. Montague*, and a rumour getting abroad that the kidnaping captain was on board that vessel, hundreds of the lower orders, principally women, rushed down to Gunpoint Wharf, eager to wreak vengeance upon the culprit. They were, however, disappointed, the captain being in custody in the United States.

THE NICE QUESTION.—We read in a letter from Turin, May 25:—"Villafranca did away with Plombières. By renouncing the conquest of Venetia, France forfeited her claims to Savoy and Nice, and Ratazzi stepped into the place of Cavour. When the instincts of the Italians led them to annex Central to Northern Italy the alternative was offered to Ratazzi either to reject the votes of the Central Italians or to give up Savoy and Nice as a compensation to France. Ratazzi demurred and fell. Cavour returned to power, and thought he could refine and haggle upon the French proposals. The Emperor Napoleon cut short all negotiation by a 'brutal' threat of an invasion of Central Italy. Cavour then came in. He won the Emilia and Tuscany; he lost Nice and Savoy."

THE ACADEMY OF PESTH VOTING A TESTIMONIAL TO THE MEMORY OF COUNT SZECHENYI.

THE name of Count Stephen Szechenyi is a watchword daily repeated from mouth to mouth throughout Hungary. That great man, whose recent death his countrymen so deeply deplore, may be said to have been the guardian genius of Hungary. To promote the welfare of that nation was the object ever present to his thoughts, and the aim of every act of his life. Providence would seem to have ordained Szechenyi to aid in the great work of "Europeanising" the Hungarian nation. He himself styled the Hungarians "Kelet nepe" (Eastern people), and, like other Eastern peoples, there was among them no middle class; they were wanting in that strong civic element which gives birth to those conquering legions of peace—commerce and manufactures. Szechenyi, the influential aristocrat and the brave soldier, was the first to make an effectual effort to raise his country to the level of the present age, to establish the principle of equal rights and equal duties for all, and to smooth the way for the existence of a third estate, whereby the organisation of Hungary was rendered as perfect as that of other nations of Europe. On no public occasion has the civic element of Hungary been manifested in so marked a way as at the funeral of Count Szechenyi. Industrial and commercial institutes and trades' guilds deputed their representatives on that solemn occasion; addresses of condolence were forwarded to various members of Szechenyi's family, and a considerable sum was subscribed for a monument to be erected to the memory of the "Great Hungarian." These facts sufficiently show that the civic element of Hungary has become an organic principle of the nation, and that it will instinctively work out the destination which Szechenyi assigned to it.

If the industrial and commercial institutes which indirectly owe their existence to Szechenyi rendered their last honours to his memory with such unfeigned sorrow, a tribute was of course to be expected from the Hungarian Academy, which was Szechenyi's direct and first creation. The objects for which the Academy was originally founded were the increased propagation of the Hungarian language, and the cultivation of art and science through the medium of that language. The institution has faithfully fulfilled its mission. The publications of the Academy in the departments of Hungarian philology and history are rich treasures of research. The national literature has received a wholesome impetus from the prizes annually proposed by the Academy, and lectures are delivered every Monday evening in the Hungarian language. The Academy maintains a regular correspondence with the principal scientific institutions of Europe and America, and it counts among its honorary members most of the distinguished savans of the age.

Owing to insufficient means, the Academy has hitherto been unable to carry out in their full extent all the objects comprehended in its plan. Its sittings are held in a hired locality, and it has not sufficient funds to remunerate lecturers, &c. But no sooner were these facts made known than a public subscription was raised for the purpose of erecting a handsome building for the Academy and augmenting its funds. This subscription was aided by the Hungarian aristocracy with princely liberality, whilst the poor and working classes eagerly contributed their mite. The result was that a very considerable sum was raised, and the Academy was about to acquire renewed life and activity, when alas! at that critical juncture it lost its founder and patron, Count Stephen Szechenyi.

On Easter Tuesday, two days after the sad event, the members of the Academy held the sitting which forms the subject of our Illustration. In this meeting it was resolved that the members of the Academy should wear mourning for the space of four weeks; that a monument should be raised to the memory of the founder of the institution; and that a full-length portrait of the deceased Count, which had previously been in a side room, should be hung in the Hall of Sitting, which already contains the busts of Count Joseph Teleki Kazynezy and other Hungarian worthies.

RECEPTION OF THE CHILDREN OF THE IMPERIAL GUARD BY THE PRINCE IMPERIAL AT THE TUILERIES.

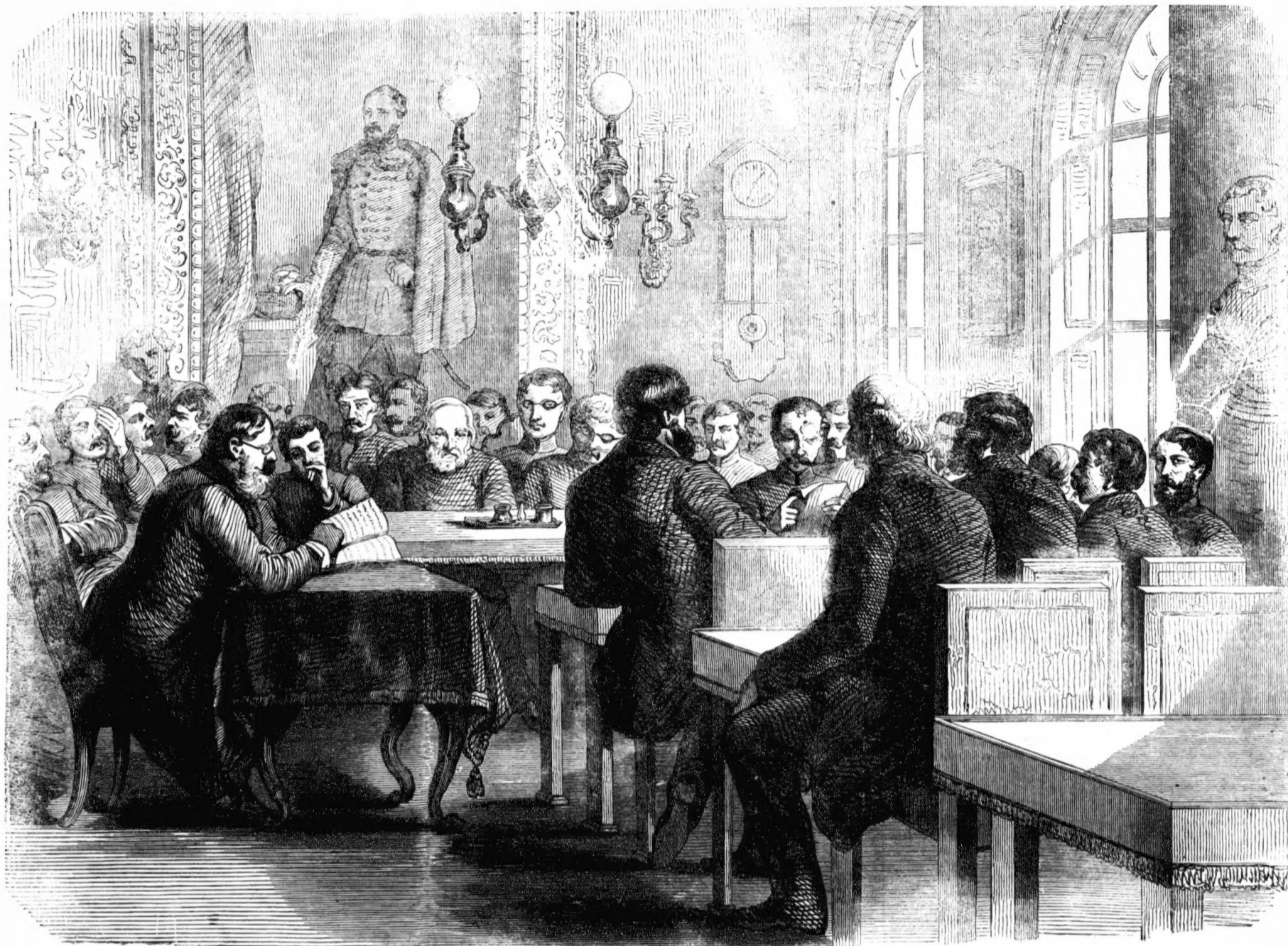
If anything be needed to prove that the French are essentially a nation of soldiers, the conviction may be found in the manner in which the military instinct, both by education and even amusement, is developed among the very children. In accordance with this national predilection Napoleon III. seems to have used every means of inculcating in his infant son an early warlike taste. Already the nurseries set apart for him in the various Imperial palaces fairly bristle with tiny models of the implements of slaughter, and his taste has been still further increased by his appointment to the rank of corporal in the first regiment of Grenadiers of the Guard. No opportunity is ever lost for parading the little soldier in his official capacity, and fatiguing must be the lessons he has to undergo previous to those displays of premature confidence which are rendered necessary by his so frequent public appearances, all of which are duly recorded for the admiration of an enthusiastic multitude. The last of these little manifestations occurred on Wednesday, the 9th of May, when we are informed that the Emperor, by the desire of his son, invited the children of the Imperial Guard to visit the Tuileries. One hundred and fifty of the gallant little fellows presented themselves on the occasion, and the young Prince, placing himself at their head, passed them in review before his Imperial parents. After this a luncheon was served in the Galerie du Musée, at which the Imperial Prince presided, surrounded by his comrades, who, in the presence of the Emperor and his household, applauded him so enthusiastically that he probably felt called upon to respond in a manner suitable to the occasion. This he effected, perhaps, in the best possible way by rising and shouting several times, "Vive l'Armée," "Vivent les enfants de troupe!"

MENTON, IN THE PRINCIPALITY OF MONACO.

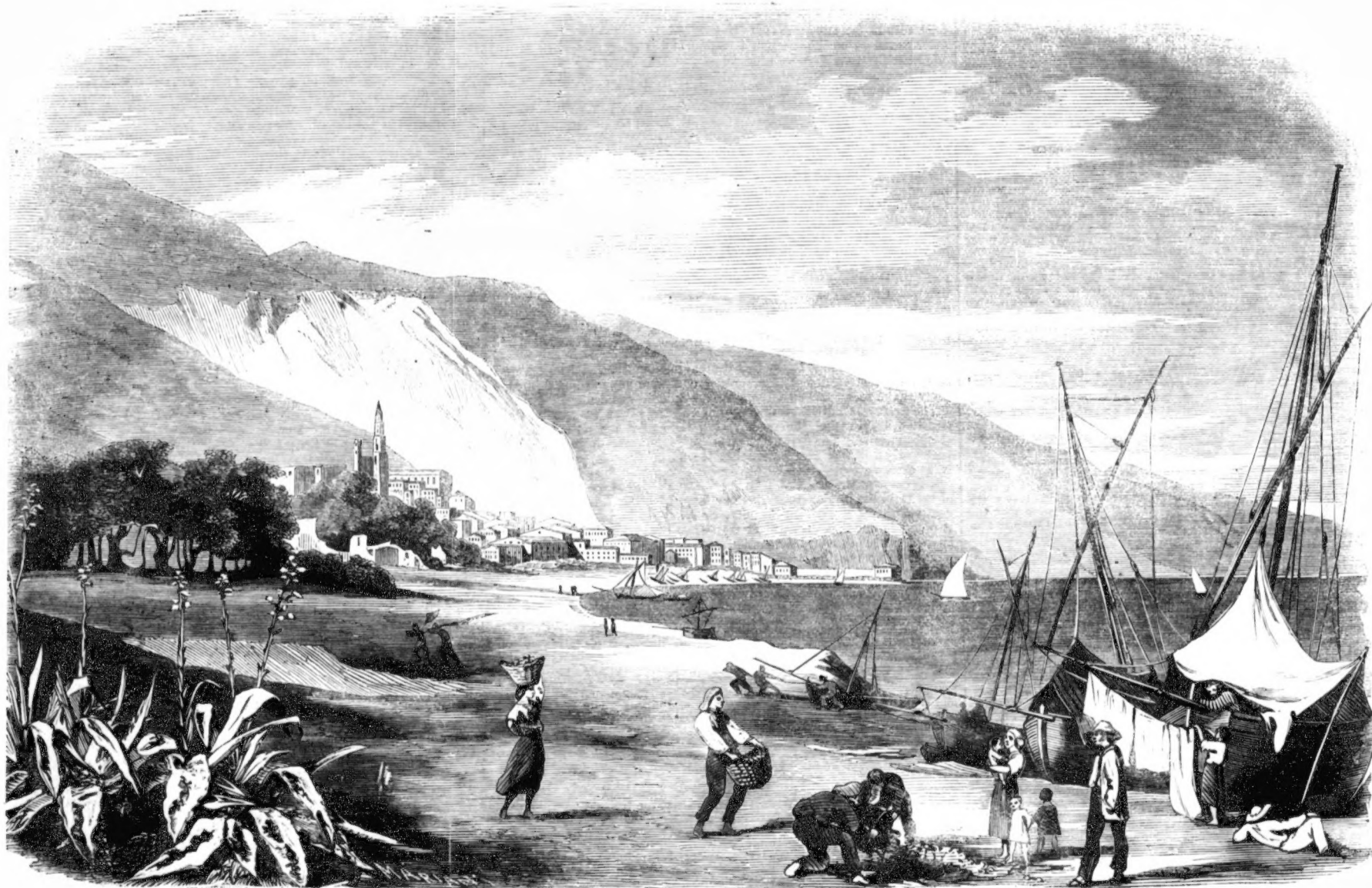
FIVE miles north-east of Monaco, near the Gulf of Genoa, is the town of Menton, a part of the principality of Monaco, in the province of Nice. It contains 3000 inhabitants, and carries on an important trade in essential oils produced in the district. From the year 1346 down to 1848 this town had belonged to and been under the Government of the Princes of Monaco; but during the latter celebrated year of revolution the standard of revolt was raised even in this small place, which has since been under the domination of Sardinia. The reigning Prince of Monaco has, however, never ceased to protest against the secession, and still maintains his moral right as Sovereign; but, as the whole of the principality is about to be ceded to France, Menton will shortly be absorbed into the French empire, and probably gain considerably by the second transfer of its allegiance, for the town, from its outlying position as frontier and port on the Mediterranean, cannot fail to become of increased importance, both strategically and commercially, on forming a portion of the Emperor Napoleon's dominions.

DESERTIONS FROM THE ITALIAN ARMY.—General Fanti, Minister of War at Turin, has addressed the following circular to the commanders of the different corps of the Sardinian army:—"My department has received information to the effect that certain emissaries visit the cantonnements of the troops, and take advantage of the inexperience of volunteers to induce them to desert, giving them to understand that the Government secretly connives at it. Such insinuations are far from the truth, since the Department of War will never show leniency in cases of breach of discipline; and, as it does everything in its power to promote the comfort of the soldier, so it will apply the utmost rigour of the law to deserters. The commanders of the corps are directed to publish the present circular by order, and have it read three different times. Turin, May 17. The Minister, M. FANTI." On this circular the *Opinione* makes the following remarks:—"We have had to lament the desertion of many volunteers, which could only have been fomented by our enemies; for, although these volunteers have deserted in order to proceed to Sicily, it is well known that Garibaldi will not have them; but, on the contrary, has issued strict orders not to receive any deserter from the Royal Army."

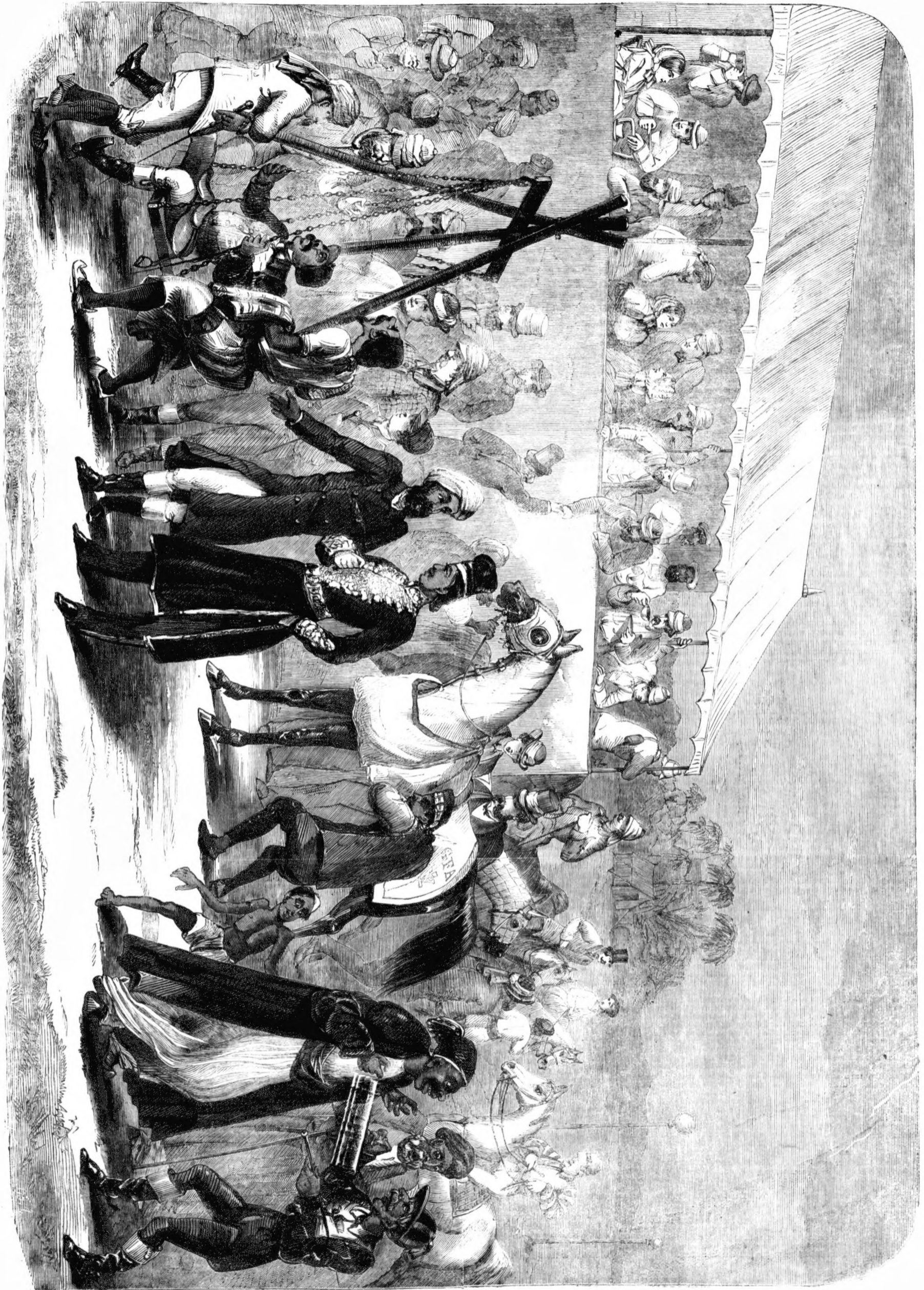
THE MURDER AT ALDERSHOT.—John Farrell and Martin Conroy, privates in the Military Train, have been sent for trial for murdering Anne Read, an unfortunate woman. The accused appear to have robbed her and then to have thrown her into a canal.



MEETING OF THE ACADEMY AT PESTH.



VIEW OF THE TOWN OF MENTON, IN THE PRINCIPALITY OF MONACO (NICE).



THE TUBE IN INDIA.—PREPARATIONS FOR SADDLING.—(FROM A SKETCH BY THE LATE CAPTAIN G. F. ATKINSON.)

THE TURF IN INDIA.

NO. II. SADDLING.

HAVING in our last number described the aspect of the road on the annual race meeting at Lucknow, we have now to speak of the Course itself, and the preliminary preparations for the great equine struggle. As we near the stand, in lieu of the bell, the more martial sound of the military bugle warns each interested functionary that the time for saddling has drawn nigh. Here are our horsekeepers, or syces as we call them. They have kept up with us, although, as you know, we have not let the grass grow under Arabs' hoofs as we rattled along. Let us take a stroll in front of the Stand, and see if you can imagine yourself transported to the Ring at Epsom or the Grand Stand at Ascot. By a very violent stretch of the imagination you might fancy yourself at either, as there is undeniably a smack of the right thing, tinged, as it necessarily must be, with an Oriental shade of character which affords originality, if not positive amusement. The highest civilisation and the rudest and most primitive means and appliances go hand-in-hand. Here is the course, and its line of route is defined by posts consisting of whitewashed bamboos, surmounted with inverted earthen pots similarly rendered conspicuous through the simple agency of lime and water. The "cords" extend from the winner's box for a brief distance only on either side, but often are these substituted by light horizontal bamboos, which are amply sufficient to rail off the "mild Hindoo," whose utmost ardour and excitement could never be stirred up into pressing upon the fixed and lawfully constituted boundaries, whilst, as to invading the course itself, such a heterodox proceeding could never enter into the Asiatic mind.

But, who are these? Why, there is our friend the costly-garbed Prince, discussing matters of importance with an Arab horsedealer, who has entered some horses, and who proposes riding in one race himself, the "Great Welter," when owners must be in the pigskin. He is a great character, has constantly fresh batches of Arab horses coming up from Bombay, where they are landed when first shipped down the gulf. His choicest batch generally arrives about the time of the meeting, when the cantonments are full of purchasers; and precious longsums he asks and gets for his nags, nothing even of fourteen hands procurable for less than £100, but £160 to £200 for Arabs of regimental size—viz., 14-2; while for horses that have extra height and power £300 is the usual figure, and £400 for any maiden that gives good promise for the turf, possessing good racing points and qualities. Beside them is one of the Palace eunuchs holding a discussion with his jockey, the dispute, so far as we can hear, having reference to the running that the man of whip and spur is to make. He is a wealthy man, that thick-lipped Ethiopian, and with his friends in the city heavy sums are staked on the coming issue.

But the weighing has to be performed, an operation which is effected in the most primitive style, as our Illustration represents. A common scale and beam, with tripod borrowed for the occasion from the Commissariat Department, usurps the place of the patent weighing-machine, and in place of bags of sugar and rice, which is now brought to bear in equipping the gaily-clad jocks of white complexion or of sable hue. The stewards, keen-eyed sportsmen, superintend the arrangements and sanction with unimpeachable authority the weights of the booted rivals. See! there is Chabook Sing, the best native jockey in Prince Meer Ali's stud, who sits his steed like a monkey, but has brains within; for he has imbibed a thorough notion of "riding," not as a mere sticker on, but as a politician on horseback, knowing when to make play and when to hold in; and many a time and oft has he baffled his rival English jockeys, who have sneered at his dusky face and huge moustache, his attenuated legs and his indescribable boots, with tops more dingy than his sable complexion; but, even with his quaint and saucy approximation to the cut of the English jockey in his outer man, he has made many an inferior horse win, and given the English rider a proper sacking. The bugle sounds again; and now let us adjourn to the Stand. Here it is; a structure of very primitive form—an elevation of mud, faced with sunburnt bricks and covered with a rude awning; but it is spacious enough for its requirements. The beauty and fashion of Lucknow have only begun to assemble. The greater portion of the fair who patronise the races are equestrians, who keep to their saddles until the sun's rays become too powerful to be pleasant, when they take refuge under the awning, and when the races are over drive home in their hooded conveyances. A few more who have come in their carriages prefer remaining in them, whilst others at once betake themselves to the ungainly mound, and regale themselves with hot coffee and sweet biscuits, delighting with their merry laugh and sparkling eyes the escaoured subalterns who flock round them, who are investing fearfully and prodigally in kid gloves, which are inevitably destined to be lost to the fair betters, who unquestionably make it a most desirable and profitable speculation to make their appearance on the course.

(To be continued.)

THE RESULTS OF THE REDUCTION IN THE WINE DUTIES thus far shows that such increase of consumption as has taken place has been mainly in French qualities. These present an augmentation of about 87 per cent, while in Portuguese descriptions there has been a falling off of 11 per cent. Spanish wines, however, the consumption of which is nearly equal to that of the aggregate of all other wines, still figure for an increase of about 7 per cent; while the German descriptions, hitherto limited, show an increase of more than 100 per cent—namely, from 30,488 gallons during the four months to 61,539 gallons. As our total consumption of all wines, however, during the period has been 2,581,566 gallons, this increase, extraordinary in itself, is comparatively unimportant. The use of South African wine, now that this quality is no longer available for contrivances to cheat the Customs out of drawback, has already declined 54 per cent. Reckoning all descriptions of wine, colonial and foreign, our consumption for the first four months of the year exhibits only an increase of 6 per cent, so that at present the changes have been rather in the sorts consumed than in the quantity. But the importation has been very large.

A FOREST-FIRE.—A letter from Nova Scotia of May 17 tells us that "during the last two weeks many hundred thousand acres of forest land in British America were burnt down. In New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Cape Breton the scenes were terrific. In many places tracts of beautiful timber land, extending some ten, fifteen, or twenty miles, have been burnt down, and nothing remains but blackened stumps and layers of ashes. So dreadful was the conflagration for some days in Nova Scotia that the air was lurid with the blaze. The sun peered through the mist, or smoke, red as the fire on which it looked down. The ashes raised by the wind, and carried along, fell again at great distances, so much so that in the city of Halifax, distant some twenty miles from the nearest fire, ashes fell like a shower of snow, and parties walking out carried umbrellas to protect themselves from the dust and ashes that floated on the air. In the interior of Nova Scotia, especially in the great forest lands between Truro and Pictou, the fire raged fearfully. For miles it was one long rolling and terrific wave of living fire. On some of the lakes, the spring haunts of migrating ducks and other birds, the scene is melancholy to behold. After being frightened by the surrounding fires, and by the cracking of the burnt timber, the poor birds took to flight, but there was nothing before them but an ocean of fire. Finding no resting-place, they again returned to the lakes, but with burnt wings, and so disabled that they are lying almost motionless on the water."

MEN REQUIRED FOR THE NAVY.—A return has been made of the number of men which would be required to provide the established or estimated complements for the whole of the steam-vessels afloat, building, and converting. For our 59 ships of the line we should require in all 50,629 men; for 43 frigates, 20,055; for 9 block-ships, 5535; for 4 iron-cased ships, 1900; for 21 corvettes, 5690; for 95 sloops, 13,545; for 27 smaller vessels, 1987; for 192 gun-boats, 8986; for 8 floating-batteries, 1680; for 61 transports, tenders, &c., 2804; and for 4 mortar-vessels, 840. In all, the total number number of men required would be 112,742; or 95,813 officers and seamen, and 16,929 marines.

MESSRS. LEATHAM AND BRIGHT.—Mr. A. Henry Leatham writes to the *Times*, disclaiming political identity with Mr. Bright:—"That I am Mr. Bright's brother-in-law is perfectly true; but I have never professed to hold Mr. Bright's opinions, having always carefully drawn the line where Mr. Bright and I did not agree in politics. I feel sure that in this unhappy Wakefield election matter, which has occasioned both Mr. Bright and myself so much pain, and while the final issue appears to be trembling in the balance, you would not wish Mr. Bright to feel that I wished to shelter myself under any false disclaiming with him. It is, therefore, only justice to him and to myself to contradict a statement which for some months has been going the rounds of the papers, and, unless contradicted now, may at some future period be detrimental to our political characters."

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 132.

THE HON. MR. LYGON.

MR. LYGON is the second son of Earl Beauchamp, and (as the son of an Earl is an "honourable") the Hon. Mr. Lygon. He first came into Parliament in 1857 for the borough of Tewkesbury, where, Dod in his "Electoral Facts" says, the influence is divided between the Martins of Overbury and money. Sometimes the Martins return the members, and sometimes money. The Martins, however, always secure one seat for themselves. There is a Martin in the House now as colleague to Mr. Lygon, and a Martin has represented Tewkesbury for many years. Whether Mr. Lygon came in through the local influence of Martin or the more general influence of money we cannot say. There was a Martin in the House at the time of Lord North's coalition; and it may amuse our readers if we introduce an anecdote about this gentleman. He recommended that the House should buy a starling to remind it of the infamous Fox and North coalition; whereupon Lord North arose and objected that the expense was unnecessary, since the subject would be sufficiently brought before the House so long as they had a Martin there. Ever after this the member for Tewkesbury was called "Starling Martin." But to return to Mr. Lygon. In 1857 he was elected, in 1859 he became a Lord of the Admiralty! It was a rapid rise. Why Mr. Lygon so soon obtained the important post we cannot say. Perhaps he had special abilities for such an office, or perhaps it was because he was the son of Earl Beauchamp. Authorities differ. Mr. Lygon's term of office was, though, a very short one. He entered in March, and left, when the Derby Government was ousted, in June. But, short as it was, it was not only long enough to give him a taste of the sweets of power, but to make him feel a deep and abiding interest in the dignity, and honour, and efficiency of the department which he had managed. Perhaps, indeed, he has felt more of this interest since he left office than he did when he held it; for this is not uncommon. Indeed, the deep interest which placemen out of place feel in the efficiency of the public departments, as compared to that which they appear to feel when they are in office, is something remarkable. However, we have no fault to find with Mr. Lygon's performance of his duties, for we know nothing about it. Be this as it may, he has certainly felt a deep interest in the Admiralty ever since he ceased to be "a Lord;" for on the ground of that three months' term of office he has generally sat on the front Opposition bench, amongst the chiefs. Whenever Admiralty matters have been before the House he has always appeared with a bundle of papers in his hand; has been very active—not to say fidgety—and forward in putting questions and offering criticisms; and, last week, went so far as formally to impeach the present Secretary of the Admiralty, Lord Clarence Paget.

HE IMPEACHES LORD CLARENCE PAGET.

It appears that at the Carlton, the United Service, and other clubs, there has lately been fluttering a curious canard about Lord Clarence. It was first whispered, then muttered, and, at last, openly uttered. Of course this canard was, at first, a poor, weak, unfledged starling; but, nursed as they are in the habit of nursing such things in Pall-mall, it soon grew, became well-feathered, and flew about, and cackled amazingly. Its cackling was to this effect:—That Lord Clarence, the Secretary to the Admiralty, was not only a shipowner in the firm of Green and Co., of Blackwall, but a shipbuilder; and that he was so when some of those rotten gun boats about which so much has lately been said were built in Messrs. Green's yard; and that, consequently, he (the Secretary) was actually responsible for the blunder or fraud which had been committed. This was a very awful business. Lord Clarence, that worthy knight, "sans peur et sans reproche," a builder of rotten gun-boats! Who could have thought it! Now, no doubt, it will suggest itself to our readers that the simple plan would have been for Mr. Lygon, when he heard this report, to have quietly taken Lord Clarence Paget by the button in the lobby, and asked him whether the report was true; but it is sufficient to answer that this is not the practice amongst official people. When an evil report is floating about derogatory to the honour of an official personage it has been settled by long practice and justified by innumerable precedents that the question should not be settled in private, but be brought publicly before the House; and no doubt there is wisdom in the practice; for, if the simpler plan were to be adopted, supposing the report to be true, the delinquencies of public men would not be exposed; and everybody knows that one of the solemnest and most precious duties of men out of office is to expose by every means, damage, and run down the character of men in power. Besides, even though the report be false, it must be brought before the House, otherwise grand opportunities for speech-making would be lost, and occasions also for young men of an aspiring character to show, Jehu-like, their zeal for their country's good, and to let their constituents and all the world see how jealous they are for the national honour and for the efficiency of the public service. No! settling such matters as those in a friendly, quiet, and gentlemanly way will never do. And so Mr. Lygon, in conformity with established practice, after due notice, brought this canard before the House.

WHO SUCCESSFULLY REBUTS THE CHARGE.

And, now, mark how Lord Clarence took the bird in hand, and how effectually he plucked off his feathers, twisted its neck, and stopped its cackling for evermore. When Lord Clarence arose there might have been some who hoped and some who feared the existence of some truth in this report, and that though, by due exercise of official ingenuity, he might wriggle out of the business, as other officials have often wriggled out of ugly affairs before, yet that it would not be done without a stain upon his reputation that would never be entirely removed. But we had no such thoughts; for we have long since settled that if there be honourable men left in the world Lord Clarence Paget is one, and were confident that this dart, however well aimed and well feathered by party jealousy, would fall from his bright shield to the ground, and leave not a dint behind. And we were justified in our belief, for never did we hear refutation of slander so complete, or see an accused official so perfectly meet and rebut an accusation as Lord Clarence refuted the slander and rebutted the accusation which had been whispered in the clubs and at length openly brought before the House by Mr. Lygon. Let our readers mark how, by a plain and simple tale, the noble Lord set his slanderers down. Lord Clarence Paget was, in virtue of some shares which he held in some of Messrs. Green's ships, a shipowner; but with the shipbuilding he never had the least connection. In 1857 he was offered the post of Secretary of the Admiralty by Lord Palmerston, but he refused the offer, because he then held those shares. It seems that Messrs. Green occasionally contract with the Government to carry troops and stores; and it appeared to Lord Clarence, although he was simply a shareholder, and had nothing to do with the management, no more than a railway shareholder has to do with the management of railway traffic, that it would, nevertheless, not be proper that he should take a part in which he might be called upon to open and adjudicate upon contracts in which, remotely, his interests might be involved. In 1858 he sold his shares at a considerable loss. And why? Let the reader mark the answer, for it is really refreshing to meet with such nicety of honour in public men. The noble Lord in 1858 felt himself called upon to criticise the contract department of the Admiralty; and in so doing he was somewhat hampered by the reflection that he had these shares, and that, remotely, his interest clashed with his Parliamentary independence, and therefore he sold his shares. In 1859 he took office. This is the history of this matter, and every one must be grateful to Mr. Lygon that he brought the matter forward. His motive, perhaps, was not a kindly one; nevertheless, we believe that, when he joined in the cheering which broke out so heartily and generally from all parts of the House when Lord Clarence sat down, he was entirely sincere. Party spirit is a very bitter thing, and often impels to questionable doings; but still the House of Commons is composed of Englishmen, who at the bottom love justice and admire honesty; and we believe that when Lord Clarence had finished his simple and modest story there was not a single being present who was not ready to say, as Peel once said of Palmerston, "We are all proud of him." Lord Clarence is the son of that old Marquis of Anglesey who, after having

distinguished himself in the Peninsula as a commander of a cavalry brigade, led the Belgian and Hanoverian Horse at Waterloo successfully in a grand charge against 9000 of the enemy, and just at the close of the battle lost his leg. Lord Clarence is a sailor, was midshipman on board the *Asia* at Navarino, and Commander of the *Princess* in the Baltic during the Russian war. The noble Lord has long been noted as a first-rate seaman. The *Princess* was when he commanded one of the smartest and best-disciplined ships in the service, though no man was ever flogged whilst the noble Lord had the command. Mr. Lygon is not a sailor, but he, too, is a very smart man in his way. His dress is perfect, and his neckties are the admiration of the House. His appearance one night as he stood at the bar was, from the Reporters' Gallery, quite dazzling, for he sported a capacious scarf of brilliant scarlet, which covered his breast, and, contrasting as it did with his white waistcoat, and flashing in the gaslight, made him look quite meteoric.

THE "DIFFERENCE" BETWEEN THE LORDS AND COMMONS.

Up to Friday night the Conservatives in the House were evidently disposed to view this matter as a good joke. Nor were they inclined to view it in any other light by the speeches of Mr. Digby Seymour, Mr. Whalley, Mr. Edwin James, and Mr. Thomas Duncombe. "These Radicals must have their say, you know, and when they have had it the matter will drop;" and so, as speaker after speaker arose, he was received by the Conservative party with a rude guffaw. Mr. Bright's speech, however, rather damped their mirth; for the honourable member for Birmingham himself was profoundly serious, and it was evident that his words were not without effect. But it was reserved for Lord John Russell effectively to stop this untimely mirth, and convince honourable gentlemen opposite that, whatever might be the result of the deliberations of the House, the question was not and must not be treated as a joke. "No such important question as this," said the noble Lord, "has arisen in my time." "No, by the powers above!" he seemed to say, "if we must lose this privilege of ours, be it so; but let us not treat the robbery as a joke." And it is no joke our readers may rely upon it—very far from a joke we can assure them; for, if we will reflect, this privilege of the House of Commons alone to tax the people is not of yesterday, but is the growth of centuries, and has been gained at no small cost, for suffering, and battling, and the lives of men have been its price. For more than five hundred years our countrymen have struggled and fought for this privilege; and the loss of it, unless we have become a very depraved people indeed, cannot be treated as a joke. Joke! Why, if we will consider, the principle that the English people can only be taxed by their representatives lies at the bottom of all our freedom, and consequently of all our greatness. If we, in looking back, cannot see this, our forefathers, in looking forward, could see it; and hence they so nobly fought and willingly suffered to secure and retain this right. "But," say the Conservatives, "the Lords have not taxed the people." This, however, is a stupid quibble. The affair stands thus:—The Queen, through her responsible advisers, announced that she did not require this tax. The Commons accepted the boon in the name of the people; but the Lords, in direct opposition to Queen and people, insist that the Crown shall not give up the tax, and that the people shall be taxed. Is not this taxing the people? The Lords must think that we have lost our reasoning powers if they hope that we are to be choused out of our rights by such wretched quibbling. The Lords, by rejecting this bill, have unquestionably infringed upon the privileges of the Commons by a more dangerous method than if they had originated a tax; for in that case the Commons could and would have indignantly refused to sanction the impost; but by rejecting this bill they have taxed the people and left them no appeal against the decree.

PROXIES.

And in doing this Peers voted by proxy. Let the people reflect upon this. Some luxurious English nabab, for example, disgusted by the strictness of English morals and English habits, emigrates to Paris, Naples, or Rome; and there he takes up his abode—a foreigner in everything but name. He performs none of the duties of an Englishman; he has none of the patriotic feelings of an Englishman; he does not sympathise with us; he does not encourage our trade; he contributes nothing to our revenue, except the tax upon his property. Indeed, all he has to do with England is to draw from its soil money to squander in a foreign city, for the gratification of his licentious passions and vicious tastes. And this man, by proxy, is to tax the people of England! But will the House of Commons allow this quietly, without resolute opposition and indignant protest? If so, we do, indeed, need a further reform.

THE NINE HOURS MOVEMENT.

THIS movement is being revived by the professional agitators. The following memorial has been addressed to the members of the Central Association of Master Builders:—

Conference of United Building Trades,

11, Rochester-terrace, May 25.

Gentlemen,—We approach you once more for the purpose of respectfully requesting you to concede to us a reduction of the hours of labour from ten to nine hours per day. In making this fresh presentation of our desire for the nine hours movement, we are confident that a more careful and impartial consideration of the subject will induce you to come to the conclusion that your interests as employers will not be injuriously affected by the concession of the nine hours boon to the earnest and respectful solicitation of the men engaged in your establishment. On the other hand, we are equally confident that the condition of the workmen, physically, morally, and intellectually, will be greatly improved through the effects of the proposed reduction. In this conviction we are fully sustained by the results of similar reductions of daily toil in other departments of industry. In London, and generally throughout the provinces, the clerks and warehousemen have agitated for a very considerable shortening of the hours of work. Their efforts have been completely successful, and the result has been an immense gain to the men, without the slightest loss to the masters. On the contrary, the establishment of better and friendlier feelings between the employers and the employed has not only conduced to the greater comfort of the parties, but has also been productive of no small pecuniary advantages to the employer. The operative builder's hours of toil are at least as many as the clerk's and warehouseman's, the distance between his home and his place of work is in general longer, his right to mental improvement as sacred, his need greater, and the claims of his family to his personal superintendence as obvious and urgent. These gentlemen, are a few of the reasons which we deem deserving of your consideration; but, in addition to these, we have to urge the manifest tendency of the age towards the reduction of daily toil in every branch of employment; the wide-spread and constantly-increasing cravings of the working classes for a higher intellectual and a purer moral condition of existence, the immense difficulty, and, in the majority of cases, the absolute impossibility, of administering to this desire for mental improvement, so far as the operative builders are concerned, without a diminution of the hours of toil; and the determination on our part, as well as on the part of our fellow-workers throughout the country, not to cease the prosecution of the present agitation until the boon of the "nine hours" has been conceded. This last fact we submit to your attention, not in any boastful or defiant spirit, but lest you should be so far deceived as to imagine that the operative builders are to be diverted from their demand for the "nine hours movement." Rest assured that the determination to assure this amelioration of our condition is too deeply rooted in our hearts for any amount of resistance to turn us from our purpose; and that the chief effect of any severities to which we may be exposed in consequence of this demand will be to deepen our attachment to the cause for which we have suffered, and strengthen our resolve to persevere in our agitation until success has crowned our endeavours. In conclusion, gentlemen, we have only to add that, next to the triumph of the cause to which we are devoted, our chief desire is to witness the establishment of a perfectly friendly feeling between employers and employed; and that the conviction that the granting our present demand will be powerfully conducive to this most desirable result is one of the reasons why we now ask you in the most earnest and respectful manner to concede this reduction in the hours of our daily toil.

On behalf of the Conference of the United Building Trades, yours, respectfully,
GEORGE POTTER, Secretary.

THE SUPREME GOVERNMENT IN INDIA has published a notification (based on instructions from the Secretary of State for India) from which it appears that no clergyman is to be appointed an inspector of schools; and that no one who is or has recently been engaged as a missionary is eligible for any appointment in the educational department.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MAY 25.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Royal assent was given by commission to several bills, after which the House adjourned until Monday, the 4th of June.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE PAPER-DUTY DIFFICULTY.

LORD PALMERSTON moved that a Select Committee be appointed to search the journals of both Houses of Parliament in order to ascertain and report on the practice of each House with regard to the several descriptions of bills imposing or repealing taxes. He said that he should abstain from any observations, and he trusted that hon. gentlemen generally would also refrain until the Committee reported.

MR. E. JAMES said the House was formally in possession of the proceedings of the other House; the precedents showed that the matter was ripe for action, and there was no necessity for a Committee to search for precedents, which would only lead to temporising and delay. The House and the country expected the Government to adopt some course at once.

MR. DISBY SKYNNOR objected to the motion for a Committee, both as regards its terms and its proposed constitution. It did not go to the point in issue—viz., whether there was a precedent for the rejection of such a bill as the Paper Duty Bill by the Lords.

MR. T. DUNCOMBE said that the House of Lords had not rejected the Paper Duty Bill, but had only postponed the second reading for six months. Of course that was meant to be tantamount to rejection; but, until the prorogation of Parliament, it was only postponed; and, if the Government would not prorogue, but only adjourn, Parliament until November, then there might be such a pressure of public opinion on the Lords as to induce them to pass the bill. He moved an amendment to the effect that, the House having learnt, with regret, that a bill for the repeal of the paper duty had been postponed for six months, Parliament ought not to adjourn beyond November next, in order to give an opportunity to the Lords to reconsider their proceedings. There was no need for precedents when the course taken by the Lords was evidently intended as an insult to this House; and it was for the House, in duty to itself, to vindicate its privileges.

MR. WHALLEY seconded the amendment.

MR. BRIGHT said it had been always understood that the financial scheme of a Government which was sanctioned by the House of Commons was invariably to be passed, and it was not surprising that the great breach of the privileges of the House had not been at first comprehended. But, from information he possessed, he believed that, in short time, a general spirit of dissatisfaction would arise. He should equally have objected to a rejection of a bill by the Lords adding to the paper duty as he now did to their refusal to pass the present bill; for, in his view, the immediate object of the measure was as nothing compared with the great constitutional question involved. He complained of the vagueness of the order of reference to the proposed Committee. Lord Palmerston had failed in his duty to the House and the country by not taking a more decided course. The amendment was calculated at once to assert the supremacy of this House and maintain the dignity of the other; and it would be a satisfactory mode of getting out of the difficulty in which they were placed. He suggested the adjournment of the debate until Thursday next, and he moved accordingly.

LORD J. RUSSELL said the amendment went far beyond the occasion, for whereas the House of Lords had trespassed on the privileges of the House of Commons, that House proposed to trench on the prerogative of the Crown in reference to the prorogation of Parliament by resolution. If the Committee was appointed, when its report was presented the House might come to a conclusion as to the course to be taken.

After some observations from Mr. Clay, Mr. H. J. Baillie, and Mr. Whalley,

MR. BRIGHT withdrew his motion for the adjournment, and suggested that Mr. Duncome should also withdraw his amendment.

MR. DUNCOMBE assented, and the motion for the Committee of Inquiry was agreed to.

BRIBERY.

On the motion for the adjournment to Thursday,
MR. T. DUNCOMBE inquired if the Government intended to propose any course in reference to the boroughs of Gloucester and Wakefield? and, if not, why the issue of the writs had been delayed?

MR. M. MILNES contended that the suspension of the writs was a just and proper punishment for the offence of bribery which had been committed.

In the course of a further discussion,

MR. BRIGHT stated that Mr. Leatham, who had been alluded to, declared that he had given such a full disclosure in his evidence before the Commissioners as to entitle him to his certificate, which, however, had been withheld without any reason assigned, and a prosecution had in consequence been directed against him, which was a grievous hardship.

SIR H. CAIRNS suggested that before the House urged the prosecution of a witness who, on the face of the proceedings, had made a full disclosure, but to whom a certificate of indemnity had been refused, the Commissioners should be required to state the grounds of their refusal.

MR. MALINS concurred in this suggestion.

MR. MELLOR and Mr. James urged reasons against the prosecution.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL observed that the reasons he had heard were not adequate to discharge him from the obligation cast upon him; but if any member would move a resolution that the Attorney-General should not proceed with the prosecution he would not oppose it. Unless the whole thing was a farce and mere hypocrisy, he was officially bound to institute this prosecution.

MR. WALPOLE said he was convinced that the prosecution would be followed by two consequences. First, that a great act of injustice would be perpetrated against individuals; and, secondly, that the object of the Act of Parliament under which it was instituted would be defeated.

MR. WHITEHEAD thought the Attorney-General could not hope to obtain a conviction.

SIR G. LEWIS remarked that the Government had been charged with supineness in instituting proceedings founded upon these commissions, and especially in the case of Wakefield, and nothing could be more embarrassing than when the first step of a prosecution was taken for a debate to be raised in that House, in which admonitions were indirectly conveyed to the Attorney-General, without any distinct resolution or positive facts to guide him. With respect to the writs, a measure of reform was pending which would affect the constituencies of the two places, and the Government had thought it a right course to propose the suspension of the writs during the present Parliament.

After a few words from Mr. Bass the subject dropped.

THE POPE'S RECUSITS.

THE O'DONOGHUE called attention to a proclamation recently issued by the Government in Ireland, containing a caution intended to prevent Irishmen from taking service with the Pope. He should like to know, he said, why the Government arbitrarily interfered in this case, while the subscriptions towards Garibaldi's expedition, which had been declared to be illegal, were countenanced and encouraged?

MR. CARDWELL said the conduct of the Irish Government was simply in obedience to the law, which rendered it penal for any subject of her Majesty, without permission, to take service with any foreign Sovereign; and they had issued, not a proclamation, but a notice, by way of warning, of the provisions of a statute applicable to the United Kingdom, which they were bound to carry into effect.

MR. MONSELL considered the answer of Mr. Cardwell unsatisfactory, and that the Government had not held the balance even.

NAPLES.

MR. BOWYER complained of a despatch of Mr. Elliot, dated Naples, the 23rd of March last, and charged that gentleman with having used violent and insulting language towards the Government and King of Naples. The hon. and learned gentleman expressed his opinion that the course adopted by Mr. Elliot was calculated to subvert the ordinary principles upon which diplomacy was based, and must, in the end, alienate two Governments which were supposed to be on terms of amity.

LORD PALMERSTON replied that the Government had not expressed any disapprobation of the despatch which was the subject of Mr. Bowyer's censure. The chief characteristic of that despatch was that it stated the truth; for it was well known that constitutional government was a dead letter in Naples, and that the whole power and authority of the State was vested in a despotic and irresponsible police.

The adjournment of the House until Thursday was then agreed to.

THE GUN-BOATS.

On the motion of Sir F. SMITH, it was agreed that a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the circumstances which have caused the defective state of a considerable number of the gun and mortar boats and vessels of the Royal Navy.

WINE LICENSES.

The Refreshment Houses and Wine Licenses Bill was read a third time and passed.

The remaining business was disposed of, and the House adjourned until Thursday next.

THURSDAY, MAY 31.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE ARMY ESTIMATES.

On the motion for going into Committee of Supply on the Army Estimates a great variety of questions were put to the Government.

Major EDWARDS asked the Secretary for War a question respecting the omission from the Estimates of the usual vote for the annual training of the yeomanry cavalry.

SIR J. TRELAUNY called attention to the effect of selection of Lieutenant-Colonels of regiments upon the relative positions of the Guards and the Line in cases of exchange, and asked several questions relating thereto.

General PERL urged upon the Government the necessity of maintaining the militia in a state of the most complete efficiency in the existing circumstances of the country, and congratulated the Government and the country upon the success of the volunteer movement, which had been the means of raising a force which he described as a magnificent army. He, however, expressed an earnest hope that it would not be allowed to supersede the old constitutional reserve of the kingdom.

MR. JOHN LOCKE called attention to the claims of the artificers of the Land Transport Corps organised during the Crimean war, and charged the Government with the non-fulfilment of the conditions upon which their services had been enlisted.

MR. DEEDER, whilst giving his approval to the volunteer movement, said there was an impression abroad that the Government were hostile to the training of the yeomanry cavalry corps in consequence of the success of that movement.

SIR DE LACY EVANS brought under the notice of the House the recent appointment of General the Hon. C. Grey to the colonelcy of the 3rd Buffs, and in doing so observed that he was actuated by no wish to disparage or to undervalue the services of that gentleman. On the contrary, he had no doubt that he had rendered very important services as private secretary to his Royal Highness the Prince Consort. His only regret was that there had not been military services rendered; that the appointment had been made in violation of the rules laid down by the late Lord Raglan—namely, that distinguished services in the field gave the first claim, services in the colonies the next, and services chiefly at home the last. General the Hon. C. Grey had the colonelcy of a regiment conferred upon him although there were not less than fourteen distinguished general officers, his seniors, who had filled important commands in the Crimea and elsewhere, and whose claims had been altogether ignored in his favour. He believed the appointment had created an amount of dissatisfaction in the Army that had not been excited by any other which had been made during recent years.

MR. ADDERLEY called attention to the report of the Committee on the Military Defences of the Colonies, with the view of urging the justice and propriety of requiring the colonies to bear the cost of their own internal defences.

LORD R. CECIL insisted upon the right of the colonies to receive the protection of the mother country, and contended that if we threw their defences upon the colonists themselves we should incur the danger of weakening our power, and of weaning them from their allegiance to this country.

MR. C. FORTESCUE, on behalf of the Colonial Office, said that the chief motive for keeping up an effective force in some of the colonies was not the apprehension of a war with any of the great Powers of Europe, but to prevent the risk of hostilities breaking out with formidable native tribes.

General UPTON asked if it was the intention of Government to recommend to her Majesty a revision of the warrant dated the 1st of July, 1848, with a view to its improvement, and especially to increase the rates of pension of non-commissioned officers and soldiers discharged from the service in a helpless condition?

MR. WILLIAMS inveighed against the enormous expenses incurred by this country, not only for our own defences, but also for the military defences of our colonies.

Colonel KNOX asked what course the Government intended to take in regard to the purchase system in the Army? The Minister of War seemed to think that the purchase system should stop at the rank of Major, and that from thence the principle of selection should be adopted. Any such system of selection would, in his opinion, amount to the grossest jobbery.

MR. L. PALK wished to receive some information respecting the defences of the country.

MR. S. HERBERT replied briefly to the numerous questions put to him. Although the Government did not propose to call out the Yeomanry Cavalry for training this year, they nevertheless considered it a most valuable force. The right hon. gentleman also spoke in the highest terms of the Militia force and the Volunteer movement. In reference to the appointment of the Hon. C. Grey to the colonelcy of the 3rd Buffs, Mr. S. Herbert defended it on the ground of the valuable services rendered by that officer whilst in command of the 71st Regiment for a period of nine years in Canada. That gallant officer served also in Portugal.

MR. DISRAELI also spoke in favour of the appointment of General the Hon. C. Grey.

The House then went into Committee of Supply, and a supplemental vote was taken of 1907 officers and men for the Army; also a vote of £23,256,701 for payment allowances of land forces at home and abroad.

MR BRIGHT AND THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE Lancashire Reformers' Union held a meeting on Tuesday, at Manchester, to debate the constitutional question arising out of the Paper Duties Bill. Mr. Bright made a long speech on the subject. He said:—

Henceforth you can have no reduction of expenditure, no change or removal of taxes, no adjustment of burdens, but by the pleasure of the House of Lords. Bear in mind, further, that in that House men vote who are a thousand miles away. Men have voted—their proxies have been used—when they themselves had ceased to live. The Duke of Wellington used to pull out of his pocket, I do not know how many—perhaps fifty, or sixty, or eighty of these proxies. Lord Derby can bring out a great number of them when he likes; and what is more, I believe that in that House three members form a quorum; and if the Lord Chancellor be on the woolsack, and Lord A. moves something, and Lord B. seconds it, it is put to the vote, and it is declared that the ayes have it; or, if it be the repeal of a tax, that the noes have it. Well, now, I think it is a question worth asking, whether we are to submit to this new order of things?

The Government, I presume, is like all Governments. Some men in it are more zealous than others; some more anxious upon a matter of this kind than others; some more wishful that everything should go on more smoothly during their time—"give us peace in our time!"—anxious that nothing should occur to break up that beautiful combination under which they fulfil the duties of her Majesty's Ministers. At the same time, I believe that the Government is fairly willing and anxious to contest this great question—I do not say if they receive, but receiving that amount of support which, on a great question of this nature, they certainly deserve to receive from the people. And now, if you will observe the conduct of the Government during this Session, I will undertake to say there has never been a year when the office of the Chancellor of the Exchequer has been held, or when its duties have been performed, under a greater sense of what is due from it to the great people whose interests are in its charge. All the measures of the Chancellor of the Exchequer have been with reference to the great industrial interests of the country; and, I believe, tend most essentially to give power to the people, and power henceforth to the Government of the country; because vast resources amongst the people, abundant wealth at the disposal of the Government—all this is a great source of power, which I am sure the Chancellor of the Exchequer has done nothing to impair during the present Session. Well, then, with regard to another question—Parliamentary Reform—Government had introduced a bill which some men say is too large and other men too small, but which, considering the amount of difficulty which every measure of reform meets in this country, is one which I think we all feel it has been our duty to support. After that course, with regard to this Budget—this French treaty—this Reform Bill, I know not when we have had a Government which has more honestly and fairly endeavoured to signalise its tenure of office by benefits and advantages conferred upon the nation. If this be so, is it not our duty to stand by it? assuming, of course, as I assume, that they will stand by us.

After suggesting that a committee should be formed in Manchester and in other cities to agitate on the subject, Mr. Bright concluded as follows:—

Our taxes are drawn from the capital of the country, from the skill of its population, from the toil of all those who work as no other people in the world, perhaps, do work; and I say we shall have reason for ever to be ashamed of ourselves, and our children will have to be ashamed that they came from us if we do not resist every attempt to take from the House of Commons that which the Constitution has given to them, that which we find to be essential to our security and freedom—namely, the absolute, irreversible, and uncontrollable management of the taxation and finances of this great kingdom.

The meeting was adjourned, after passing resolutions encouraging the House of Commons to "maintain inviolate its right to determine the sum of the taxes to be laid upon the people."

A Constitutional Defence Committee has been organised in London. The committee has issued an address calling upon the people to resist "by every constitutional means" the recent vote of the House of Lords.

REFORM MEETINGS.—Reform meetings have been held this week at Birmingham, Stroud, Chelsea, and other places. The speeches and resolutions were generally in favour of Lord John Russell's bill. Mr. Bright attended the Birmingham meeting.

MR. THOMAS SAYERS AND MR. JOHN HEENAN.

THESE gentlemen met at the Alhambra Palace on Wednesday for the "reconciliation and final settlement of the great contest for the championship." At this ceremony there was the usual assemblage of men about town who are to be seen at every place of amusement, with a sprinkling of sporting-looking ruddy-faced country squires, probably staying in London between Epsom and Ascot; a good many pugilists, and several females.

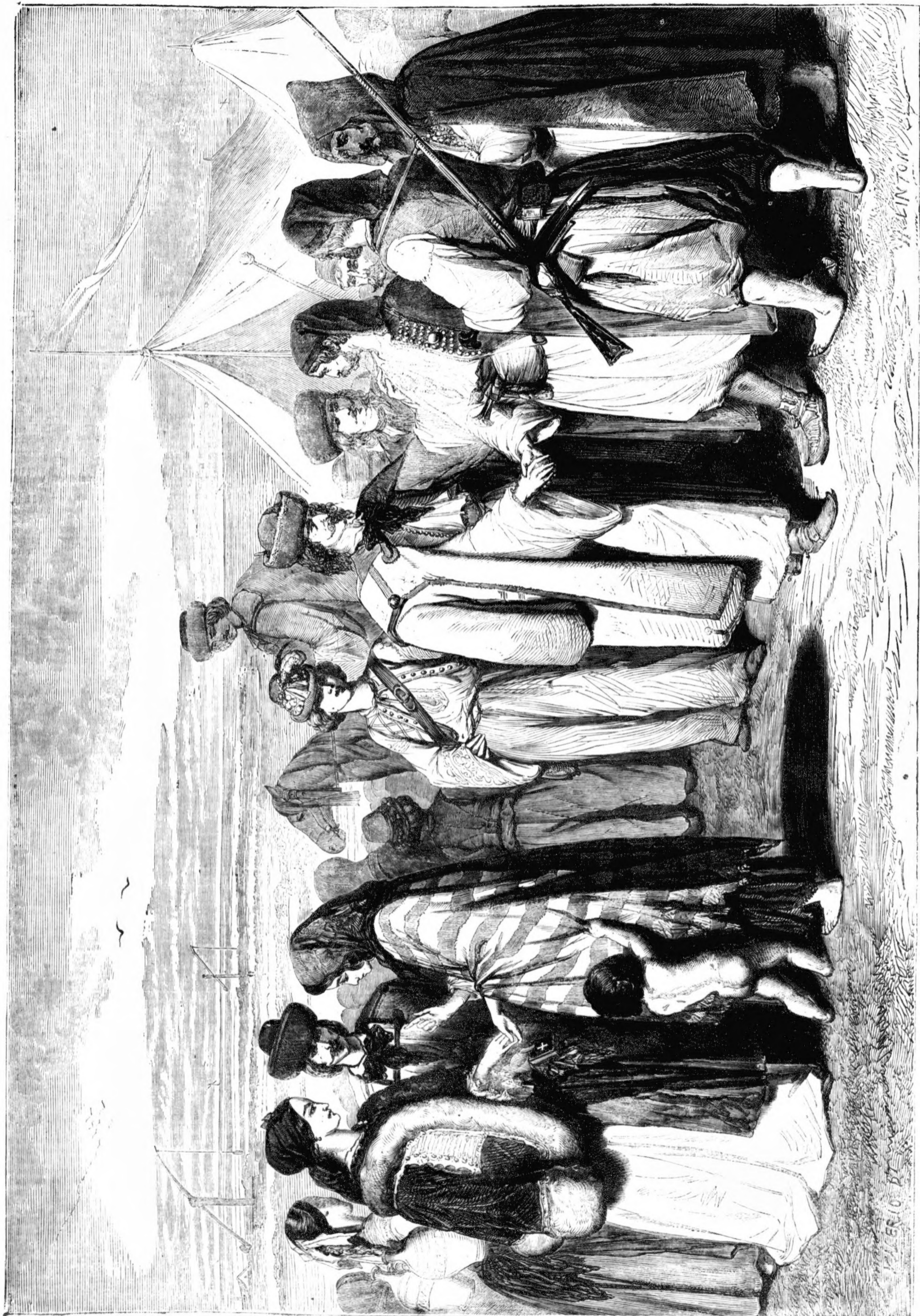
The performances commenced by an overture from the band, which may have been composed of "most eminent artists," but they had evidently laid by their eminence for the nonce. After them an African opera troupe gave a selection from their entertainment, and were listened to with toleration, but it was evident that the audience had come intent on one sight, and with that alone would they be satisfied. Their patience was tried yet further, for the Roman Youths, two airily-clad gentlemen, with that peculiar arrangement of hair which is only to be seen in acrobats, advanced, and presented every variety of dislocated spine and boneless leg to the gaze of an admiring public. Then the "eminent artists" in the orchestra blew and scraped louder than ever, and two footmen entered the ring, bearing a table and some chairs, which they at first placed in the extreme corner, but upon the people clamouring the furniture was moved into the middle of the arena, and the com-pleasant Jeames were rewarded with a round of applause. Taen, amidst tremendous cheering, Mr. John C. Heenan and Mr. Thomas Sayers advanced, followed by Mr. E. T. Smith, and other gentlemen less known to fame. Both the nobles champions looked surprisingly uncomfortable, and, after bowing to the people, shook hands in a wooden and automaton-like manner. This was the great business of the evening. Whenever there was a little pause or hitch in the order of proceedings the two boxers shook hands, and each time elicited thunders of applause. The programme stated that the combatants would be introduced, "and place themselves in position as for battle," from which we may infer that the true pugilist's position is to place the hands on the hips, to hang the head bashfully, and to kick the ground occasionally in a nervous manner—at least this was the attitude assumed by both the combatants. After a pause a spry-looking white-haired gentleman, very fluent and self-possessed, and who, on his name being called for, announced himself as "Censor," of *Wilkes's Spirit of the Times*, stepped forward, and introduced Messrs. Sayers and Heenan as the two bravest men since the days of Wellington—"or, rather, he should say, since the days of Wellington and Napoleon"—proceeding to show a comparison greatly to the discredit of the deceased Generals. The speaker then stated his opinion that the fight had done more to strengthen the bonds between England and America than the Atlantic cable would have done; and after relating some choice anecdotes of his own early youth, showing his precocious love of pugilism, he introduced the pugilists by pointing to them with his finger and uttering the names, and sat down. Up then rose the referee, the editor of *Bell's Life*, a particularly quiet and un-sporting-looking gentleman, and in the name of the people of England presented Mr. John C. Heenan with a very elaborate-looking silver-covered belt, which Mr. Heenan put round his waist (first taking off his coat), and when invested with it looked remarkably as though he had just been the subject of some painful surgical operation. The referee read an address to Mr. Heenan of a very complimentary nature, the noticeable part of which was an expression that Mr. Sayers was about to "retire from the active practice of his profession"—which, when we consider that it merely means giving up the punching of heads, must be allowed to be prettily put. But the English speaker was nothing to the American gentleman who immediately succeeded him, Mr. Wilkes, the editor of the *Spirit of the Times*, who spoke about the "glittering trophy, with its resplendent middle, recording Sayers' sixteen hard-fought battles," who mentioned that "a manly rivalry amid a generous people added only another trophy to the friendship of the brave," and who alluded to the recent contest as "chivalry revived." The elegant tropes and bold metaphors of this gentleman were received with the greatest delight; but when he stated that Heenan, had he been victorious, never intended to take away the belt, but merely to borrow it for a few weeks to show his friends and then return it, a gentleman in the upper gallery met the assertion with a stentorian cry of "Walk-er!" which was loudly responded to. Mr. Sayers then, in answer to a suggestion to "Peel away, Tom," took off his coat and put on the belt, and then he and Heenan walked arm-in-arm round the circus, and bowed to the spectators. Their attempt at oratory failed, for Mr. Heenan only said, "This is the proudest moment of my life," while Mr. Sayers could articulate nothing but "Which I feel the same as my friend;" but this unadorned eloquence found its way to the hearts of the audience, and was loudly responded to. The band then again set to work, the heroes and their friends retired, and the "pleasing, refined, classical, and musical entertainment," as it was called in the bills, was at an end.

FRANCE AND FREE TRADE.—At Montpellier, a few days ago, at a banquet given on the occasion of an agricultural show, M. Michel Chevalier delivered an address on the subject of the commercial treaty between France and England, in the course of which he said:—"In France, as was the case in England in 1824, the Government abstains with good faith from speaking of free trade. It contents itself with removing prohibitions, as the English then did, and, as they did also, substitutes a duty which is 30 per cent at the maximum. Let events follow their course; experience, as I believe, will infallibly and very soon pronounce in favour of a more sweeping reform, and one day, by the force of things, free trade will be proclaimed amidst the applause of the whole public, as was the case in Great Britain."

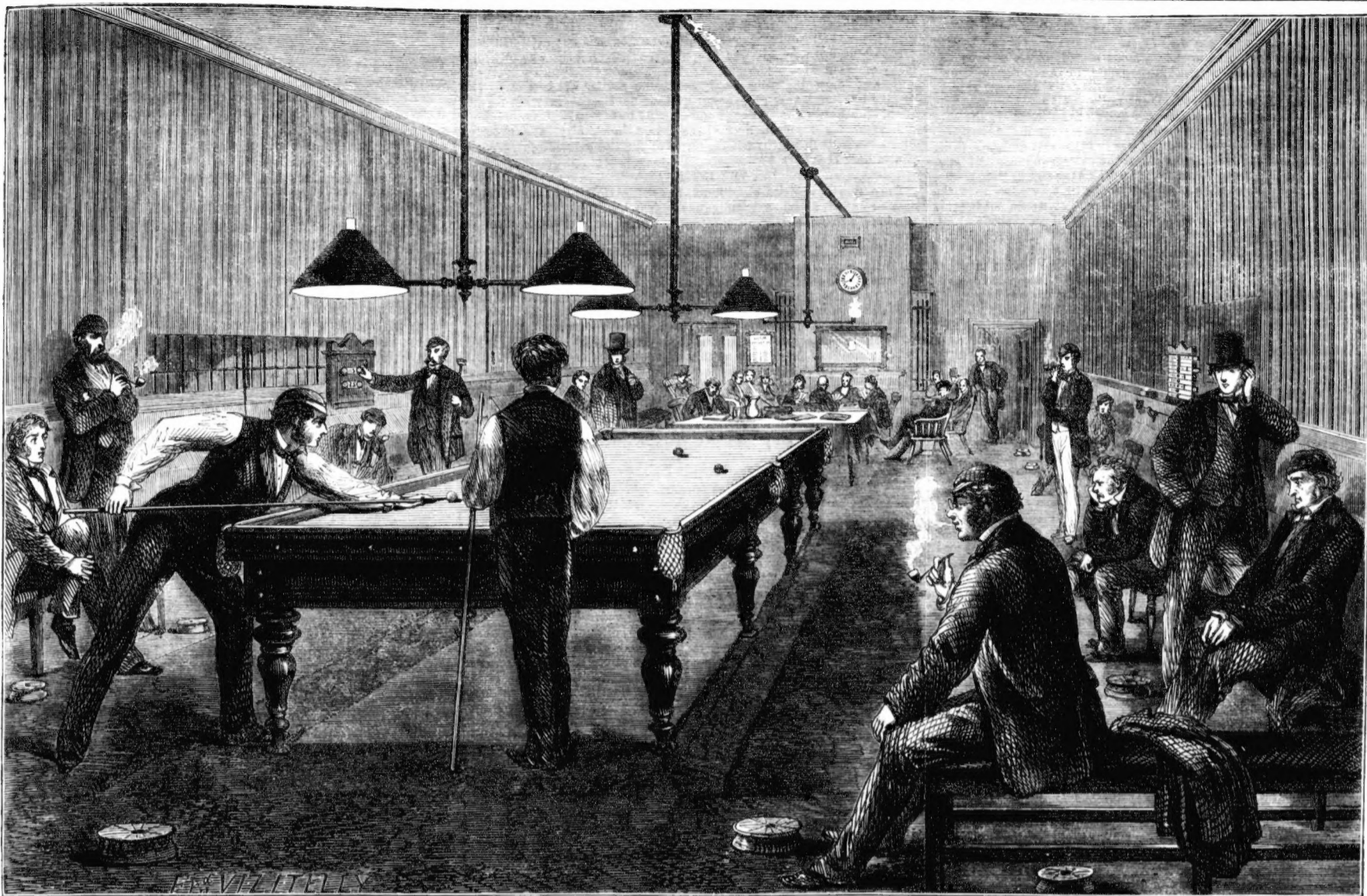
CHARMING SIMPLICITY.—The French (Government) journals tell the following "touching" anecdote:—"An incident occurred at the review on Friday which produced a deep impression upon the public. After the Emperor had left the ground, and while the troops were dispersing to their quarters, the Empress remained for some time upon the racetrack. The Imperial Prince walked a few paces before her. The crowd, which had hitherto been kept back, was now allowed to approach; the people pressed closely around the Empress, and showed her Majesty the most profound respect. All eyes were fixed upon the young Prince, whose manifold graces charmed all beholders. Among the crowd, and very near to her Majesty, was a poor family, consisting of a father, mother, and child of about the same age as his Imperial Highness. The Prince, after having frequently turned his eyes towards his unknown comrade, at length abandoned himself to an affectionate impulse, rushed up to the child, and embraced him. The charming simplicity of the act so moved the parents that the honest folks melted into tears; and all the spectators of the scene, being profoundly touched by this proof of the sentiments instilled into the mind of the youthful Prince by his august parents, saluted her Majesty and his Imperial Highness with the liveliest acclamations."

MARKET PLACE IN THE BANAT.

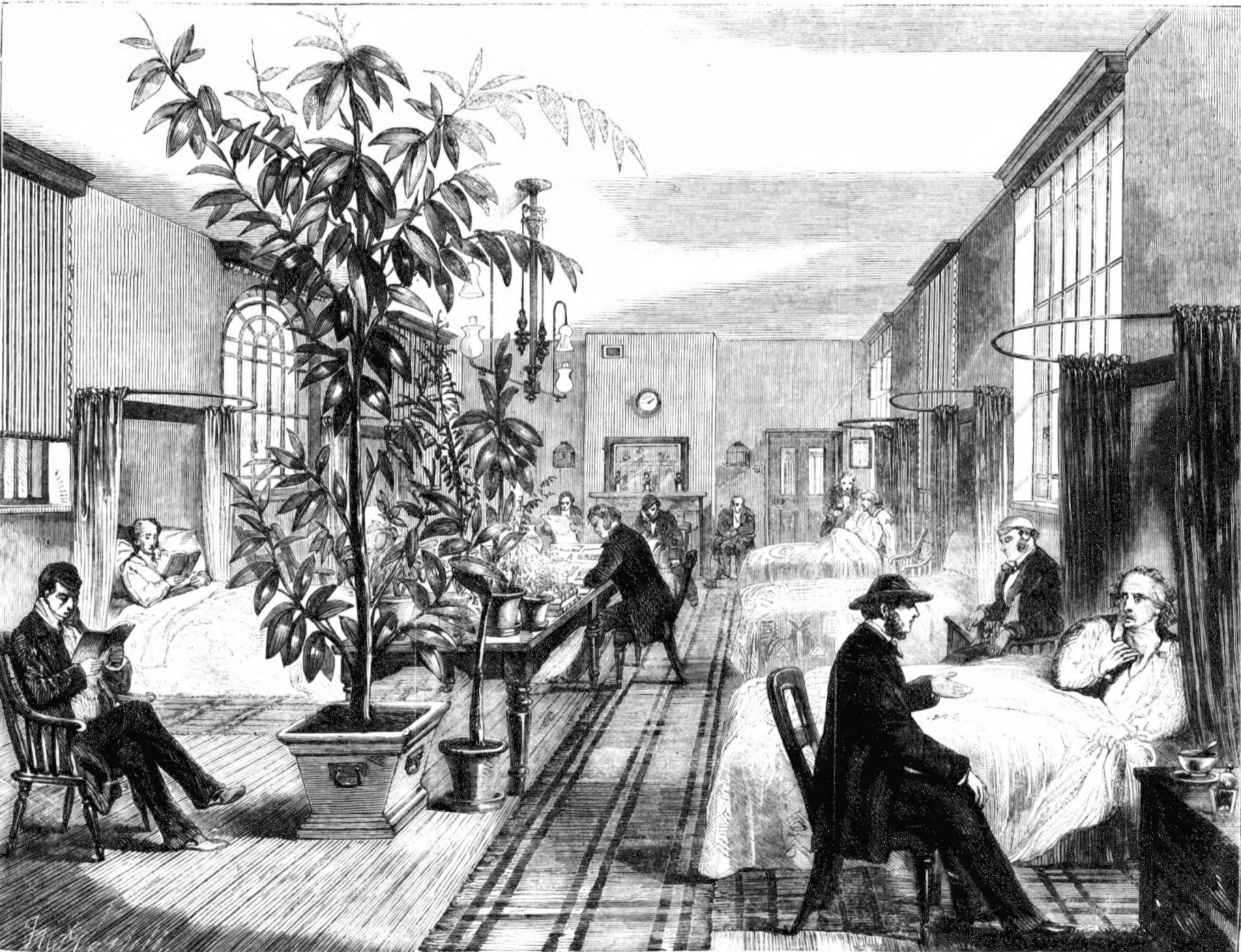
THE Illustration on the next page is from a picture painted by M. Valerio, an artist known equally for the extent of his travels and the faithful skill with which he reproduces the scenes and costumes which have become familiar to him. In the present instance he has succeeded in bringing before us the wild figures and picturesque dresses of Bohemians, Croats, Slavonians, and Hungarians, who have gathered together at a market-place in the Banat, which is situated on the Austrian military frontier. Banat is that portion of Southern Hungary which lies between the Maros and the Danube, bounded on the west by the Theiss, and on the east by Transylvania and Wallachia, where it terminates in a mountainous district, in which iron, copper, and gold have been discovered; the plains being highly productive of wheat and other grain. The chief town is Temesvar, and the Wallachian and Slavonian population amounts to about 90,000. It is remarkable that even on this remote frontier there exists a race of people whose representatives are to be found in almost every part of Europe. In the groups to the left of the accompanying picture there is no mistaking the veritable gipsy, who may pounce upon us at any moment from an English hedgerow: the tattered dress, the bare feet, the simple but effectual head-covering, and particularly the child who has not yet aspired to the dignity of clothes, mark the wanderer, whom even our present civilisation has failed to reclaim; while even the richly-dressed Hungarian lady discovers a mysterious interest in the tales of the Romany lass.



HUNGARIANS. SLAVES. MARKET PLACE IN THE BANAT, NEAR THE AUSTRIAN FRONTIER.—FROM A DRAWING BY CATHERINE.



BETHLEM HOSPITAL.—THE BILLIARD-ROOM.



BETHLEM HOSPITAL.—THE INFIRMARY: MEN'S WARD.

BETHLEHEM HOSPITAL.

It was in 1246, and therefore in the reign of the third Henry, that Simon FitzMary, then Sheriff of London, made a pious determination to establish the Priory of the Star of Bethlehem, and to endow it with sufficient maintenance gave up those lands of his which were in the parish of Saint Botolph without Bishopsgate, in the spot now known as Liverpool-street, the Priory itself standing on the east side of Morefield, afterwards called "Old Bethlem."

In 1330 the religious house became known as an hospital, the city of London took it under their protection (an advantage to the establishment which in those days of disorder was not the least desirable thing to attain), and in 1546 they purchased all the patronage lands and tenements belonging to the establishment, upon which the eighth Henry, who, perhaps, happened to be short of money at the time, wished to make them pay for the house itself; but, finding that they would not become purchasers of what really belonged to themselves, if to anybody at all, the magnanimous Monarch took a liberal alternative, and made them a present of it.

The Old Priory had already been an hospital for lunatics, amongst whom there were certain out-pensioners known as "Tom o' Bedlams," who were relieved and then sent away to beg, being known by a metal badge fastened on the arm, a distinction, of course, often simulated by other mendicants. In 1675 the building had become so dilapidated that it became necessary to erect a new one; and this was done upon a new site on the south side of Moorfields, at a cost of £1700, raised by subscription.

The history of the treatment of the patients in Bethlehem, even to a date so late as the beginning of the present century, would be a terrible and sickening recital. In early days the only system adopted in providing for lunatics was one of constant repression and severity, while the common comforts and necessities of life were almost entirely denied to the poor creatures, who, hopeless, chained, and neglected, wore out their feverish lives in the filthy pesthouse which, in 1598, was reported to be "loathsome."

In 1770, when two wings appropriated to incurables had been added to the main building, the public were admitted to Bethlehem Hospital as one of the regular London sights; and it may readily be imagined that the promiscuous crowd who were admitted at a penny each produced a degree of excitement and confusion which caused incalculable mischief. This state of things lasted, with only partial improvements, till 1815, when the present building (or at least the main building) was completed.

The place in Moorfields had been pronounced unsafe in 1799, and had been underpinned and shored up for the eleven years elapsed before a new site was obtained by exchanging the two acres and a half of the old building for eleven acres in St. George's-in-the-Fields. When this had been done the building fund was increased by grants of money, as well as by public and private benevolence; and the first stone of the new edifice, capable of holding two hundred patients, was laid in 1812, the building being completed in 1815, at a cost of £122,572. The Government afterwards advanced money for the two wings appropriated to criminal lunatics; then in 1838 there was added increased accommodation for one hundred and sixty-six patients; and finally, in 1845, the dome was constructed. But we have already been seventeen minutes standing here on this bleak March morning, and here is an attendant porter waiting to take in our names to Dr. Hood. Through the great quiet, lofty hall, and into a large apartment which might be a fire-insurance secretary's office, but it is too comfortable in its absence of pretension—a surgery—but there are no instruments, or anatomies or preparations—a physician's consulting-room, which we suppose it is. There, on the opposite wall, hangs an engraving of Hogarth's picture of Old Bedlam; and on the other walls are other pictures; but we are already being introduced to the gentleman sitting at the writing-table. He isn't unlike the head of a Government department, but that he's infinitely too considerate. A very few minutes' conversation suffice to tell you that he is the resident physician of Bethlehem Hospital. From the elegancies which decorate the wards of the patients; from the fine prints which appeal to the sensibilities of the inmates of the women's workrooms, each by its own speaking story; from that judicious appreciation of art influence which seems everywhere manifest;—from all these things to the quality of the potatoes, the statistics of fried and boiled fish, of wine, and light puddings for the infirm patients, it is to be discovered that under that capacious dome, in daily and nightly rounds through those wards and galleries, in consultation with poor demented souls, who tell their real or self-made sorrows to the kind adviser, the doctor of Bethlehem has taken up a life work which must be earnest and untiring.

Oh, there are some dull and dogged faces in those wards and galleries, blank eyes which seem to be looking far away into a dread, dark space, unrelieved, as it would seem, by any gleam of joy or hope! And yet how they do light up as they see their friend coming, how the faces really alter and become sane while he speaks and shakes the poor uncertain hand, speaking gently, and encouraging hope always!

Courteously offering us his own guidance, instead of handing us over to an attendant, Dr. Hood led the way to the wards on the male side. One is struck on entering, not so much with the exquisite cleanliness of everything, as with the air of taste and refinement which may be met with on either hand. These wards are long galleries, lighted on one side by large windows, in each of which stand globes of gold fish, fern-cases, or greenhouse plants; while the spaces between are occupied by pictures, busts, or cages containing birds, of which a large number are collected in a more spacious aviary in the centre window of each ward or gallery. The whole air of the place is light and cheerful, and, although there is of course sad evidence of the purposes of the institution in some of the faces as they sit brooding over the guarded fire, there are not wanting (perhaps a majority of) inmates who look for the most part cheerful, and are either working at some business, reading, or playing with the dogs or cats which seem wisely to be kept as pet animals.

I could not help remarking, as the result of my impressions of these galleries with the rooms leading out of them, and especially with regard to those on the female side, that they seemed like the union of Parisian picture-gallery with a London hospital. The criminal ward also possesses its aviary, plants, and flowers; and across some of the faces sitting near that fire in a mute association which seemed unlike companionship the same light broke as the kind doctor stopped to inquire or to cheer.

I remark that there seems amongst the men but little conversation and not much fellowship; but whether this was only that our sudden entrance caused some interruption, or that it is a feature of their malady, is not easy to determine. The system of employment carried out seems to be that of providing means for such occupation as can consistently be given to the patients according to their own tastes. In a small room turning out of the ward an eminent artist, unfortunately an inmate, was at work upon a beautiful and elaborate picture; while a man, at a large table in the ward itself, was performing some job of tailoring.

The decorative painting, graining, and so on, for the institution is mostly executed by two patients, who, having plenty of time before them, and not being hurried (for no work is exacted), and no profit by sale is ever made of work done in the hospital, the graining, birds-eye mapping, and general ornamentation in woodwork, is a sight to see.

The case of the man who was tailoring is a strange one, and is mentioned by Dr. Hood in his report this year. It seems he had been for nearly four years in a state of morbid insanity, with eyes fixed moodily on the ground, neither noticing nor speaking to any one, except an occasional mutter of dissatisfaction if his wishes were disregarded. On the occasion of one of the monthly parties which are here held amongst the patients, an officer of the institution had undertaken to exhibit some feats of legerdemain, and for that purpose had disguised himself in a black wig and a pair of moustaches. It was at first doubted whether it would be worth while to introduce the gloomy patient amongst the company; but Dr. Hood had directed him to be brought to sit next to himself, and he was induced to favour them with his company. What

strange lucidity passed upon the man's perceptions can never be explained, perhaps; but, almost before he sat down, he had looked half-heedlessly round the room, and, recognising the conjuror through his disguise, said, "A good make-up for —!" His attention had been arrested at last; he followed the tricks, discovered the way in which many of them were performed, and finally drank the Queen's health in a glass of something from the inexhaustible bottle. It is scarcely necessary to remark that there has since been no relapse into his former state, and that he has gradually and steadily improved.

Beyond the gallery a door opens into a light, airy, and cheerful room, the beds in which, and the air of calm quiet pervading it, prepare you to hear that it is

THE INFIRMARY.

Once more exquisite cleanliness, but still something beyond cleanliness—comfort, elegance, even luxury. The high and neatly-curtained windows admit the light in one pleasant tone, without either glare or shadow, and shows flowers, plants, busts, and even the neat white-draped beds, all as pleasant objects. Seated here and there are the partially convalescent, accommodated with easy seats, leg-rests, or pillows; by the aid of which they can lounge over the new number of some favourite periodical, with which a large table is liberally supplied, or plunge more deeply into some book selected from the library.

To this department we are introduced, and can only say that it is in every respect as quiet, as comfortable, as orderly, and as much adapted to the comfort of the readers as that of most clubs, and more than that in most private houses. It will not, I hope, be out of place to say a word here to those who, having duplicate copies of books which they are willing to bestow, have never yet thought of the good which such a gift may achieve. Think how the poor patient may fasten with interest on some book calculated to soothe, to interest, and perhaps to strengthen his wavering thoughts! And let any one who shall read this and be willing to aid the library of Bethlehem Hospital make up his volume in a parcel and send it to Dr. Hood. I write this without his knowledge, and, of course, not at his request, in the belief that there are those who, having the will, have yet wanted the information which would enable them to respond.

Turning once more, and following the doctor's master-key, which opens all doors, we look into the bagatelle-room—of which there is one, as there are, also, an infirmary, bath, and lavatory, to each of the four galleries. Again leaving this behind, a flight of stairs leads us to the

BILLIARD-ROOM.

This is a large apartment, which, but for its furniture, would look like an immense and lofty greenhouse; since it is almost entirely glazed above the height of about six feet—a plan which ensures a capital light upon the table. Around the room are raised cushioned seats for those who desire to watch the play; while nearer the fire a large study-table is filled with magazines, journals, and general literature, in neat, lettered covers, and all uninjured by the stains which ordinarily mark these adjuncts to a public room.

Still onward, and the ballroom is before us. An empty ballroom, whether at Bethlehem or elsewhere, can be but a spacious, well-ventilated, well-boarded, and handsome saloon. But the ball! Ah, those periodical balls at Bethlehem Hospital!—who can describe, who imagine, them—their strange, pervading characteristics; their underlying peculiarities; their effects; the longing anticipations of the relief they must afford by recalling old memories half-submerged in the darker broodings which sometimes flood the recollections of a brighter life? Oh! they may help those poor souls to grope their way back to life and light.

With the ILLUSTRATED TIMES of July 7 will be issued
A Large and most Beautifully-engraved
MAP OF EUROPE.

Size, three feet six inches by three feet; uniform with the Maps of London and England and Wales, already published in connection with this Journal. This Map, in the preparation of which no expense has been spared, has been engraved from the very best authorities, and will be printed on a stout sheet of paper, far superior in quality to that used for the Maps above mentioned. The price of it, including the Number of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES, will be 6d.

Orders should be given to the agents at least a week before the day of publication.
2, Catherine-street, Strand, W.C.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 1860.

THE NINE HOURS MOVEMENT.

LIKE other potentates of all ages, Mr. Potter chooses the opening of summer for the commencement of his campaign. The manifesto which he has published announcing the renewal of operations against Capital is written in a tone sufficiently decisive, with just a dash of the pomposity natural to the man and the occasion. The air of reasoning about it does not disguise that it is based on a begging of the question at stake. The question really is whether the rate of wages in any trade is to be fixed by those who draw them, or regulated by the market rate, like other things. Mr. Potter ignores this large inquiry, and simply asks the employer to give his men the same money for less work that he has been giving, hitherto, for more. In fact, he asks the employer to make a present to his men of so much per diem. It is just as much a petition for that as if he should invite a potato-dealer to lower the price of his potatoes. Such a measure—especially if imitated by the butcher and baker—would undoubtedly benefit "the condition of the workman." Pay me for doing less—that is Mr. Potter's cry. But, until he proves that the present scale of pay is unfair, the petition is a mere bit of beggary. There are plenty of occupations where men would like to work less hard, and where, if they achieved the gain, they might improve themselves intellectually, for aught we know. Further, too, there is a strong desire in the educated and superior classes to lighten the toils of the people where they can. But Mr. Potter demands, as a right, what has hitherto been conceded as a favour. "The clerk" and "the warehouseman" of whom he talks did not obtain the advantage they each partially enjoy by force. Neither are the labours of these persons carried on under the same conditions as those of the operative builders. The routine of a shop or warehouse is not so much interrupted by weather as the building of a house. There is not the same necessity for pushing a job through at once, which often exists in the building trade. Again, the public, by regulating the hours of their "shopping," can and do effect movements like the early-closing one; but the circumstances of a business like housebuilding are quite different.

If Mr. Potter would issue a paper going into the details of the building business in a business-like way, and showing (if it can be shown) that the market rate is less fair in that department of life than in others, the profits more exorbitant, and so forth, the public may help him by reasoning and persuasion to induce the masters to give better terms to their men. A strong proof that this cannot be done is that it is not tried, but declamation resorted to instead; while the old consideration retains its full force that if it were possible to make even a decent roof as a builder, while giving better terms to the men than now, we should have more builders in the field before long. Say

that every established builder is by nature an exorbitant and grasping rogue, and could if he liked pay the operatives more; of course such a class would be deserted in a moment if new employers came forward content with less. Mr. Potter is under the necessity of assuming that the existing builders are tyrants, and that all capitalists who might be builders are fools.

The declamation for which we have pronounced this manifesto remarkable is in one sense a great compliment to the upper classes and the press. It is from benevolent philanthropists, many of them men of high rank, and from respectable journals, which prefer to forward social improvement rather than political discontent, that men like Mr. Potter have learnt the fine phrases here used. All this talk about "the manifest tendency of the age towards the reduction of daily toil in every branch of employment, the wide-spread and constantly-increasing cravings of the working classes for a higher intellectual and a purer moral condition of existence," originated among, and has been made fashionable by, the "bloated" upper classes and writers representing them. But it is one thing to endeavour to lighten, brighten, and cheer the condition of the people, and quite another thing to interfere with wages. If I have a man at a weekly salary, and choose to allow him a half holiday, nothing is easier or more natural. But if I have a job to do in so many hours I must go and get people to do it at whatever terms I find them willing to work.

The whole body of operatives are by no means unwilling to work at the existing rates. Much less are they willing to be dictated to by the Unions as to the when, where, and how. Already the true demagogue despotism, however, is beginning to force them. The other day Messrs. Myers were called on to dismiss twenty men by the "society," because, in the exercise of their freedom, they had chosen to keep aloof from it. More violence, and of even a worse kind, may be expected as the agitation proceeds. We look with some anxiety for a proper exercise of the law in this matter; and we need scarcely say that we beg it may be enforced with the strictest severity. Judge Lynch has never been tolerated in this country; and the notion of a parcel of men in a public-house holding a drumhead court-martial on their fellow-subjects, and sentencing a handful of them to loss of work and bread, is too preposterous to be tolerated. It is perhaps as well that Potter should have begun thus early to hold the language of menace, and talk of persevering "in our agitation." It may teach the sensible portion of the country to be prepared in good time. Of course it will damage the cause of political reform by frightening the middle classes with the prospect of the regulation of their profits by the men whom they employ. But then this contingency is not formidable to those who would rather see discontent than moderate improvement—which is the demagogue's regular view.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH is said to be engaged on a life of Julius Cæsar.

THE PICTURE GALLERY AT DULWICH, which contains some of the choicest pictures in England, is in danger of fire from immediate contact with a row of almshouses. Should one of these houses take fire, woe to the Cuyps, Murillos, and Vandycks!

A PUBLIC MEETING was held a few days since at the Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool, to support the missions of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge to Central Africa. Lord Brougham and the Bishop of Oxford were present.

THE BISHOP OF CARLISLE is to be translated to the see of Durham, vacated by Dr. Longley, the new Archbishop of York.

TOM SAYERS, having now determined to cultivate the arts of peace, has made a good beginning by joining a volunteer rifle corps.

THE HON. WM. BATHURST has retired from the important office of Clerk to the Privy Council. Mr. Helps is his successor.

THE LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANIES connected with India are endeavouring to establish a claim to a proportion of the indemnity granted by the Indian Government for losses through the mutiny. At the India Office their case seems to have met with little consideration, and they have, accordingly, presented a petition to Parliament.

THE IRISH PAPERMAKERS have signified their intention of raising the price of paper forthwith. They say they waited to the present in the hope that the repeal of the duty would enable them to do so at less inconvenience to their customers.

THE MEETING of the children of the Metropolitan Charity Schools, which has so long been annually held in St. Paul's Cathedral, will not take place in that edifice this year, but at the Crystal Palace, on Wednesday next. This will be one of the great days of the season.

A MAN NAMED REYNOLDS, an expert swimmer, was preparing to bathe in the Serpentine, when a policeman informed him that the hour appointed for bathing had passed. Reynolds persisted; the constable endeavoured to seize him; but, slipping away, he plunged into the river and never rose again. The body was not recovered for several days afterwards.

FRAUDULENT BILLS, accepted, and purporting to be payable at some of the London joint-stock banks, are being negotiated on the Continent. One of this description was lately presented at the Commercial Bank. It was drawn by S. Collier on Herbert, Lang, and Co., Great Lion-street, E.C., London, an entirely fictitious address.

THE AGITATION AMONGST THE EMPLOYEES OF THE POST OFFICE is far from subsiding. On Monday evening two meetings of a private character were held in rooms of the Post Office—one in the letter-carriers' department, the other in the clerks' department.

THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL of the News-vendors' Benevolent Institution was held on Tuesday evening. W. H. Russell, Esq., LL.D., presided.

THE DEPARTURE OF THE Great Eastern for New York will positively take place on Saturday week, the day appointed. There still appears much work to be got through, but little doubt is entertained that this can be readily accomplished within the appointed time.

A RIFLE CORPS has been formed at Rugby School. It is expected that there will be four companies, with two officers attached to each.

MME. CELESTE is playing at Dublin to crowded houses in the "Tale of Two Cities" and "L'Abbé Vaudreuil."

MR. ROUTLEDGE, a papermaker, who ran risk of injury by a railway collision, communicates to the journals his delight at finding that the panels of his carriage were made of paper; thus there were no splinters.

THE NUMBER OF PAUPERS in England at the end of March last had decreased 12.32 per cent, as compared with the same period in 1858, and 2.43 per cent., as compared with 1849.

THE OFFICERS OF THE 3RD (OR SCOTCH FUSILIER) REGIMENT OF GUARDS intend to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the formation of that distinguished corps by a grand banquet on the 19th instant. The Duke of Cambridge, as Colonel of the regiment, will preside, and the Prince Consort (formerly Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment) will be present.

THE STEAM-SHIP *Gamel*, lying off Bermondsey, took fire on Saturday night, and was nearly destroyed.

AMONG THE PRESENT SOVEREIGNS OF EUROPE, three only have been crowned solemnly and according to ancient usages—the Emperor of Russia, the Queen of England, and the King of Sweden.

AGENTS are now traversing the manufacturing towns of Belgium, explaining to the workmen and masters how much better off they would be if they were not cribbed and confined in that narrow kingdom, but were a portion of one great empire. Several have already been kicked out of workshops when the men had discovered their object.

AN AMERICAN MERCHANT AT HAKODADI, NAMED SMITH, lately killed some Japanese whom he detected robbing his premises. Mr. Smith was tried by the American Consul, and acquitted. The affair excited considerable interest among the Japanese and foreign officials, who were dissatisfied with the summary decision of the Consul.

A NAVIGABLE BALLOON, shaped like a whale, is creating some interest in Paris. The Emperor inspected it in the gardens of the Tuilleries lately. The machine was kept captive at a height of some yards, and executed different manoeuvres, among which were a circle and a stoppage before the window of the Empress.

A TELESCOPE of extraordinary power is in course of erection at the Paris Observatory. It is said to have a magnifying power of 20,000.

Miss CATHERINE SINCLAIR, the authoress, has sent £100 to the magistrates of Edinburgh for the purpose of providing wooden seats for the wearied pedestrians of that city.

THE REV. CHARLES KINGSLEY, Rector of Eversley, Hants, has been appointed Professor of Modern History in the University of Cambridge.

ADDITIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE PAPAL FUND are announced, including £300 from the Duke of Norfolk, £100 from Lord Stourton, &c. The Roman Catholic diocese of Liverpool has forwarded to Rome £7250.

A CONSERVATIVE BANQUET is soon to be held, at which a large number of peers and commoners have announced their intention to attend. The Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot is to preside.

MR. HAMILTON, of the British Museum, is engaged in preparing a rejoinder to Mr. Collier's defence, with the result of further investigations.

THE LORD MAYOR entertained her Majesty's Judges, with the leading members of the Bar, and the officers of the Corporation, at a banquet in the Egyptian Hall, on Friday week. Covers were laid for about 150 guests.

THE BRUSSELS JOURNALS state that the King of the Belgians will pay his usual annual visit to England at the end of the present month.

THE FIRST FLOWER SHOW of the season took place at the Crystal Palace on Saturday. Despite the unfavourable weather there was a very large attendance, especially of ladies, and the show itself was remarkably successful.

THE NEWSTEAD ESTATE, including the Abbey, will probably be purchased by the Duke of Portland.

A FIRE took place at a hop-warehouse in Dockhead on Monday morning. It was not extinguished until a large amount of property had been destroyed.

THE AMERICAN PAPERS announce the death of "Peter Parley," as Mr. Goodrich familiarly designated himself.

THE SINGAPORE FREE PRESS mentions the astounding fact that since January, 1859, 1500 Chinese have been carried off by tigers in Johore, the end of the Malacca peninsula. This is much worse than in Singapore. "The tigers show more than their usual cunning, and regularly feed on human flesh."

THE KING OF SWEDEN will visit the King of Denmark about the middle of next month at the Kronborg Palace.

MR. JOHN PLIMLEY EDWARDS, a merchant of Birmingham, has absconded, leaving extensive liabilities.

THE GOVERNMENT have it in contemplation to purchase the dockyard of Mr. Pitcher at Northfleet.

THE DIRECTORS OF THE GREAT SHIP COMPANY have decided that the Great Eastern shall return from New York to Milford Haven.

MR. WATSON has been elected Secretary to the Society of Antiquaries.

THE GLASGOW EASTERN RIFLES have received a letter from Lord Clyde, at Simla, accepting the position of an honorary patron of the corps.

AN ELECTION of a member for Lymington took place last week. The candidates were Mr. Henry Grenfell, Liberal, and Lord George Lennox, Conservative. The contest was very close, the numbers polled being—for Lennox, 148; for Grenfell, 122.

THE SECRETARY OF THE ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY announces that an attempt is to be made this summer to restore communication through the cable (2650 miles in length), and that an expedition has been already sent out for that purpose. It is asserted that the wire may be lifted for any depth and examined.

SOME ELM-TREES were being conveyed across the Bristol and Exeter Railway, near Stoke, in a timber-wagon drawn by five horses, when a train came up and cut clean through a large tree, 18 inches in diameter, which projected from the wagon across the line. The train proceeded without the least injury to any of the passengers.

THE ACADEMICIANS met in Trafalgar-square on Thursday evening to elect a full member of their body. The choice fell upon Mr. Augustus Egg. Mr. Boxall ran close upon the successful candidate in the preliminary scratching; but in the final vote Mr. Egg came in by a majority of five.

THE CONSTITUTIONNEL lately put forward a remarkable article on the passport system, the abolition of which in France is forcibly recommended. Coming from a Government organ, this is of high importance.

MR. S. HERBERT said in the House of Commons on Friday week that twenty years since land belonging to the Government at Portsmouth was sold for £8000, and it had been since bought again in small lots for a sum amounting in the whole to £28,000.

AT THE ANNUAL GATHERING of the West Yorkshire Chess Association, held last week at Bradford, Herr Harwitz encountered twelve players at twelve boards simultaneously, and defeated eleven of his adversaries.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

The presentation of the champion's belt to Messrs. Sayers and Heenan, which took place on Wednesday, was a preposterous exhibition. The sight of the noble pugilists in evening costume was exhilarating; and their behaviour, their attempts at dignity, grace, and oratory, were highly ludicrous. Mr. Wilkes, of the *Spirit of the Times*, was the great gun of the evening, and made a speech modeled on those of his countrymen reported in "Martin Chuzzlewit."

Mr. Thackeray, it is said, will not commence a new novel in the pages of the *Cornhill Magazine* for a few months, but his "Lectures on the Georges" will next appear in that periodical.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Among other entertainments lately sprung up we remark the arrival of a "Washington Friend," with a panoramic exhibition. When will Brother Jonathan learn that the style of advertisement which tells at New Orleans and draws crowds at Montreal is not that suited for the West-end, London, Europe? We have had "Washington Friend is coming!" which to British swells generally, and to ladies of any position above that of sixpenny-gallery folk, is simply a piece of gratuitous impertinence. A detailed programme has just appeared, and from it we discover that, among other methods of recreating the Britishers, Washington Friend will sing "Kewo Kimo" and "Joe in the Copper." In order to save mistakes, the latter is expressly announced as a "Comic Song." Also, W. F. will exhibit "An Indian square with a papoose, showing there (sic) style of nursing babies (creating roars of laughter)." Of course all London will be at the opening, and W. F. will be the delight of the drawing-rooms.

THE MARRIAGE OF THE PRINCE OF WALES.—There is a rumour abroad about the forthcoming matrimonial alliance of the heir apparent to the British throne with a Princess of Prussia. German newspapers, solemn always and full of erudition, inform us that all the particulars of this union have long been determined—arranged, in fact, at the time of the nuptials of our Princess Royal with young Prince Frederick William of Prussia. It was then settled, we are given to understand, that there should be a "double marriage" between the Royal families of Great Britain and Hohenzollern; each double marriage was as seriously contemplated a century ago by the then Monarchs of England and Prussia, but, unfortunately, broken off at the eleventh hour, to the great grief of a certain Crown Prince Frederick, no less than of his latest British biographer. Indeed, history tells us that German Princes have always been very fond of arranging these cross alliances, as we might call them; and that it is owing to the principle which they involve that the whole of European royalty is at the present moment one vast family of brothers, sisters, and cousins. The Emperor Napoleon is, we believe, the only Monarch of the Western World not directly related to this august family; though even he, by means of more or less distant consanguinity, is somewhat drawn towards the mystic circle. With this single exception—if it is such—the whole of the Royal houses of Europe form but one family, all the members of which are blood relations. The stock or root of this family is in Germany—the "fatherland"—pre-eminently—and it is there, apparently, that a continual desire is felt more and more to unite the branches of this tree, more and more to engraft like on like.

INTERPRETATION OF ROYAL CORRESPONDENCE.—The Prussian journals are engaged in a discussion as to the means whereby the contents of a letter from the Prince Regent to the Prince Consort of England have been brought to the knowledge of the French Government. It seems that in this letter, which was generally about family affairs, some remarks of a political nature appeared, in which the French Emperor was referred to in no very respectful terms. According to the *Dusseldorfer Zeitung*, this discovery led to an interview between the French Ambassador at the Court of Berlin and the Prussian Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Ambassador wanted information as to the authenticity of the document. The Minister said he knew nothing of the Prince Regent's private correspondence; as a constitutional Minister he had only to do with official documents. The Ambassador replied that "no other way remained to convince the Emperor of the genuineness of the sentiments of the Prussian Cabinet than a personal interview between the Emperor Napoleon III. and the Prince Regent." The *Prussian Gazette* denies that any such conversation has taken place.

Literature.

The Mill on the Floss. By GEORGE ELIOT, Author of "Scenes of Clerical Life," and "Adam Bede." 3 vols. W. Blackwood and Sons.

Mr. Tulliver was a sturdy, ignorant, honest, irascible, narrow-brained miller on the Floss, with a son Tom very much like himself, and a clever, excitable, half-weird daughter, Maggie, quite unlike either. Misfortunes came upon old Tulliver through Philip Wakem, lawyer, of St. Oggs, acting more or less as an instrument, but all the way rousing the most vindictive feelings in the miller. Tom Tulliver and young Wakem (the latter hunchbacked, through a fall, but generous, cultivated, and intelligent) went to school together, where Philip and Maggie became friends. As life advanced for all the persons of the drama, the misfortunes of the Tullivers, and the hatred of the father and son of that name to the Wakens, increased. But at the same time Philip and Maggie renewed their friendship, which grew into a half-tact love, and led to half-secret meetings. By-and-by intervened Tom, strong in his hatred of the Wakens, of his sense of duty, of his father's feelings, of his notion of "duty," of his conviction of his right as a man to govern his sister; and, above all, strong in his native narrowness and hardness of soul, which effectually prevented his seeing more than one thing at a time, and denied him the vision of a good many things altogether. For her father's sake Maggie submits to the crude interference of this brother, and the intercourse with Philip is for a time interrupted. This interruption begins the misery of the story, and opens the door to the terrible complications which follow. With a conscience composed by Tom's representations, and sense of allegiance to Philip weakened by absence, Maggie is thrown into a fresh difficulty. Do our readers know what is meant, musically, by "preparing" a discord? Of the subtle "preparation" for the approaching discord in this story we can give no idea; that must be left for the quiet perusal of the book; but the fact is that, while Maggie was on a visit to her cousin Lucy, Lucy's sweetheart, Stephen Guest, a fine, vigorous man of society, fell in love with Maggie. Neither of them allowed this passion, but it grew and grew, and the tide of feeling and circumstance drifted both away into a situation of such extreme complication that we will not even attempt to indicate it here. At the last moment, Maggie, without pretending to see her way through the moral question, recovers well enough to say she will not by a deliberate act of choice purchase pleasure at the cost of misery to others. But the position of all the parties was now so involved that this could give no relief to any one, except such relief as a mere pause may sometimes bring. Even the clergyman of St. Oggs doubts whether a marriage between Stephen and Lucy would not be the way to save out of the general wreck the largest possible amount of happiness, small as that must be. And the author of the book states the case as it stood, with the general application involved, in these words:—

LIFE A PROBLEM, NOT A THEOREM.

The great problem of the shifting relation between passion and duty is clear to no man who is capable of apprehending it: the question whether the moment has come in which a man has fallen below the possibility of a renunciation that will carry any efficacy, and must accept the sway of a passion, against which he has struggled as a trespass, is one for which we have no master-key that will fit all cases. The casuists have become a by-word of reproach; but their perverted spirit of minute discrimination was the shadow of a truth to which eyes and hearts are too often fatally sealed: the truth that moral judgments must remain false and hollow, unless they are checked and enlightened by a perpetual reference to the special circumstances that mark the individual lot. All people of broad, strong sense have an instinctive repugnance to the men of maxims, because such people early discern that the mysterious complexity of our life is not to be embraced by maxims, and that to lace ourselves up in formulas of that sort is to repress all the divine promptings and inspirations that spring from growing insight and sympathy. And the man of maxims is the popular representative of the minds that are guided in their moral judgment solely by general rules, thinking that these will lead them to justice by a ready-made patent method without the trouble of exerting patience, discrimination, impartiality—without any care to assure themselves whether they have the insight that comes from a hard-earned estimate of temptation, or from a life vivid and intense enough to have created a wide fellow-feeling with all that is human.

"The Mill on the Floss" is, then, a story absolutely with a "moral," and absolutely without a "purpose," except that of restating the problem of existence in strong and unaccustomed terms. That a "moral"—of precisely the order which the author would repudiate with scorn—has been drawn from this novel is only one more exemplification of a rule we have often had occasion to lay down—namely, that a good, strong book is the best foolometer in the world.

"The Mill on the Floss" is a stronger book than "Adam Bede," and inferior to it only in point of unity. The first volume, with its minute character-sketching, will not seem to the general reader to have much connection with the second and third. Any one who pleases may begin the reading literally with the third volume, and feel little sense of incompleteness. It is not everybody who will "enter into" George Eliot's sense of painful triumph in showing that the stupidest man with strong feelings may suffer as much as the keenest witted in another way; and readers of chapter viii. in vol. 3, "showing that old acquaintances are capable of surprising us," will be apt to overlook the fact that the pleasure and the teasing of the surprise would be missed if it were not for the half-forgotten detail of the earlier portions of the novel. The impartiality of George Eliot in dealing with character and conduct is, however, a point which no one can entirely miss. Certainly, it is without parallel, when it is taken in connection with the clearness and positiveness of her insight. People who see very "clearly" (using that adverb in its common acceptance) are apt to paint life much as Tom Tulliver lived life—with that sort of inappreciative hardness which is known as calling a spade a spade, and is supposed to be the only true and honest style. George Eliot, however, does not draw you villains with redeeming touches, and good men with weak points—which is the correct thing—but draws men and women who are not to be classified at all by any word known to the vulgar vocabulary; and this, and this only, is reality. It is quite right to call a spade a spade if you first catch your spade, but you cannot; the spade does not exist; it is a mere abstraction, made for the convenience of talk, and vanishing whenever you attempt to seize and label it.

In one respect George Eliot is, we fancy, a little too impartial—she distributes intellectual and moral subtlety too widely among her characters. Stephen Guest was not, to our thinking, the sort of man likely to fall into the passionate entanglement in which he is found; and, for the same reason, not the man to analyse the situation as he is represented to have done. But Heaven only knows what anybody may fall into, or do, and a wider view of life might make it appear that nothing occurred to Stephen which would not occur to any intelligent man under the goad of passion. Meantime, however, it certainly does seem to us that he talks too much like Philip Wakem.

One criticism we must make without reservation of any kind, feeling quite sure it is sound and just. The first chapter of the book is a mistake. Mrs. Tulliver is made stupid; her literalness about the "mole" is exaggerated; and it is only in third-rate plays that we can tolerate anything so unnatural as a mother describing a daughter's odd ways to the father. It is the accredited stage way of "developing" character; but we expect better things from George Eliot, and here it is as needless as mistaken. Maggie is quite intelligible from the first, and wants no introduction.

Our parting words about "The Mill on the Floss" shall be these:—Read it for yourself, without taking any critic's word for the "moral," and keep an open eye for the sly sarcasm with which it abounds. Do not miss, for example, the metaphysical insinuation in such a passage as this:—"Here justice clearly demanded that Maggie should be visited with the utmost punishment; not that Tom had learnt to put his views in that abstract form; he never mentioned 'justice,' and had no idea that his desire to punish might be called by that fine name." Is the suggestion quite new to you that the "desire to punish," by whatever "fine name" it may be called, is simply one instinct, more or less brutal, out of many, playing its part more or less fairly in human concerns,

but with no more "divine right" on its side than any other instinct whatever? Probably you will discover, upon a little self-scrutiny, that you have a vague, though very influential, impression that when the suggestions of this instinct have become in some way familiarised they have an authority which those of no other instincts have; and, if you push the scrutiny a little farther, you will come upon the naked question, *Have they, by divine right, any such authority, or have they not?* But that is the worst (say the critics) of these women's novels—they are so "painful"!

EXPERIMENTS WITH THE WHITWORTH GUN.

SOME of the most astonishing results which have yet been obtained with this terrible ordnance rewarded Mr. Whitworth's exertions, on Saturday, against the thick iron sides of the floating-battery *Trusty*, moved off Shoeburyness. Several such experiments have been lately tried against this vessel both with the Armstrong gun and the ordinary smooth-bore 68-pounder, the results of which have all shown in a greater or less degree that the floating-batteries are, as a general rule, impervious to the heaviest shot even at a point-blank range of 200 yards. With the smooth-bore 68, when used close, the dirt made by the shot in the armour-plate has varied from 1 to 1½ and 2 inches in depth, and where three or more shots struck the same place the plate has been shattered to pieces, and the huge oak timber framing of the vessel behind the armour considerably started and shaken. No shot, however, has been forced into the body of the ship. With Armstrong guns the conical shot has very nearly passed through the four-inch iron slabs; but in no one instance, we believe, has it completely done so, and all the experiments with these latter rifled guns have entirely failed to send a projectile through into the body of the vessel. Last year Mr. Whitworth reluctantly consented to rifle one of the ordinary cast-iron guns on his hexagonal principle, and with this, using a flat-headed shot of 70lb., he managed to force the missile completely through the four inches of metal, though he failed to pierce the woodwork, without which no effect could be produced by any shot. In the course of these latter trials Mr. Whitworth's cast-iron 80-pounder gun burst to fragments, and, as the trial was not considered by Mr. Whitworth to be as satisfactory as he could wish, he applied to the Admiralty to be permitted to make a fresh trial against the *Trusty* with the 80-pounder of his own manufacture with which such astonishing results of range and accuracy were obtained during the experiments at Southport in February last. Permission for this trial was accorded, and those plates of the *Trusty* which had been much injured and broken by some recent experiments with Armstrong's cannon were removed, and replaced by fresh slabs of the finest wrought iron four inches and a half thick, and in every other respect equal in manufacture to the armour-plates which are being made for the *Warrior* at the yard of the Thames Shipbuilding Company. The *Trusty*, thus protected, and with a white target in the centre of each plank as a mark to fire at, was moored almost abreast of Sheerness, on the opposite side of the river, so that any shots which might miss the object would only traverse, without danger, the range of the Shoeburyness practice-ground.

The first shot was fired with a 12lb. charge of powder by Captain Hewlett, after some careful watching and adjustment of the gun, in order to counteract the rolling of the vessel. It struck the *Trusty* with a terrific "bang," which all heard on board the gun-boat; though, as on these occasions, a mass of wrought-iron splinters generally comes back like a shower of grape humming through the air, all have to keep under cover till the danger from such *mitraille* has passed. The smoke having cleared off showed a clean hole apparently right through the *Trusty's* side. A boat was at once dispatched to the vessel, and the result of an examination showed that the shot had struck on the edge of two plates, passing clear through the 4½ inches of wrought iron and starting both plates 1½ in an outward direction. After passing about 11 inches into the oak the head of the projectile glanced against a massive bolt, which turned it up at a right angle to its former course, where it remained buried in the framing between the plates and the inside of the ship. Had it been a shell, and burst in this position, it would have ripped the plate off or blown the main-deck timbers in. The next shot was fired with a 14lb. charge by the gunner on board the *Carnation*, who took a most accurate aim and hit the small white target full in the centre of an armour plate. This went completely through the side into the main-deck of the *Trusty*. The hole it made in the plate was a clean hexagon, precisely the size of the shot. It passed not only through the wooden side, but through one of the ribs of the ship, tearing off and smashing the iron knee, and covering the main-deck with splinters of wood and iron. The shot, when found, was so hot that no one could touch it. It scarcely showed any sign of damage beyond being compressed to about an inch shorter, and, consequently, increased in its diameter at the head by about half an inch.

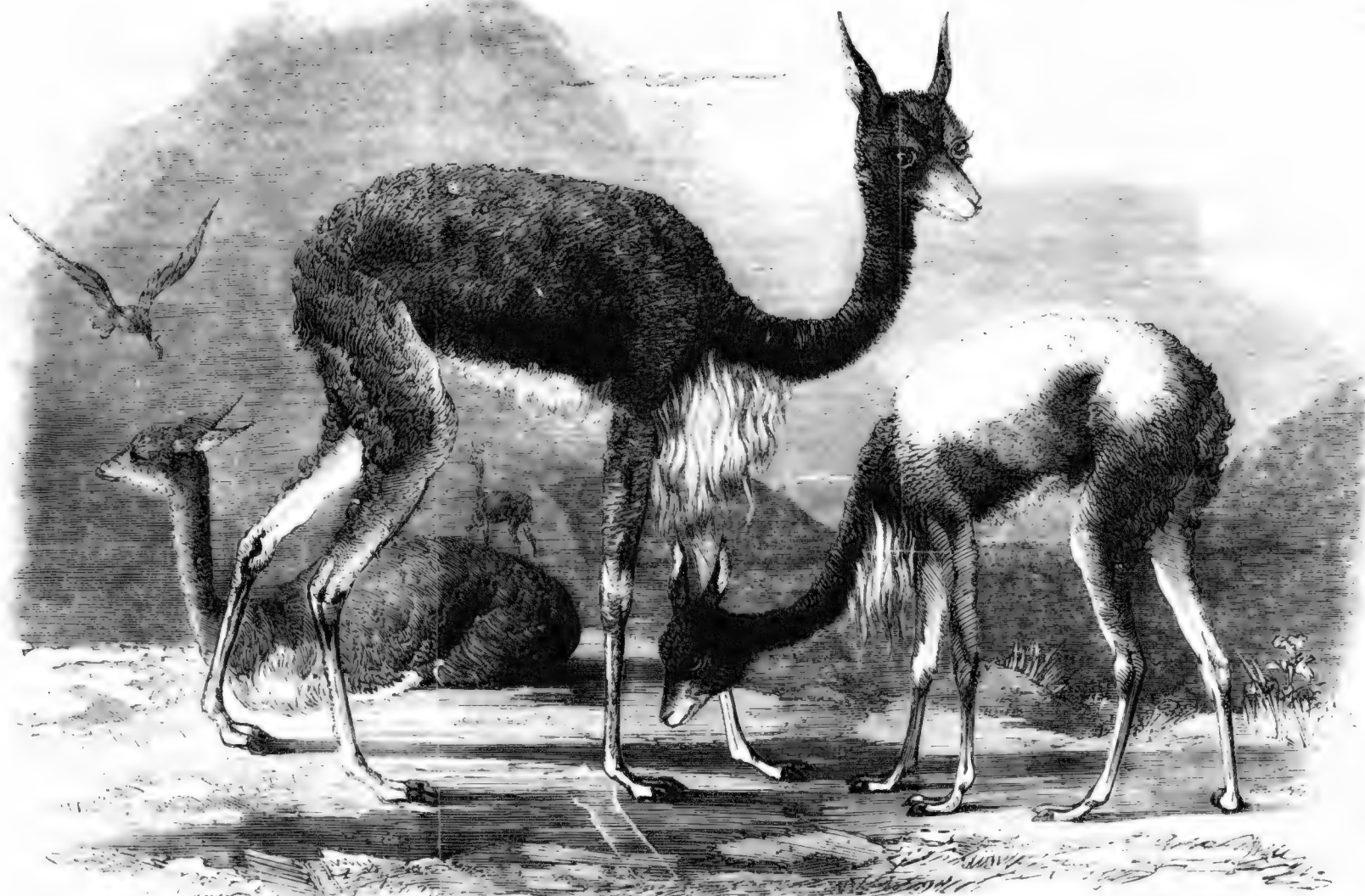
At this period of the experiments the Lords of the Admiralty arrived, and unfortunately, owing to a mistake with regard to the elevation of the distance-sight, and perhaps some anxiety to avoid hitting too low, the shot passed clear over the vessel. The fourth was also hit very high; nevertheless, though the gun was trained at and the shot, therefore, struck obliquely, it passed through the iron and sides, and struck the end of a deck beam, in which it buried itself. The fifth shot, again, pierced through the centre of a plate and into the main-deck of the ship, driving before it a mass of splinters and an immense iron bolt, which, from the position in which it was found among the fragments of wood on the main-deck—had evidently been dashed through and whirled about with a force only inferior to that of the projectile itself. It was noticed that at the instant of concussion between this shot and the vessel's side a broad sheet of intensely bright flame was emitted, almost as if a gun had been fired from the *Trusty* in reply.

The Duke of Somerset expressed himself completely satisfied with the result of the experiments, which, however, do not completely satisfy us, inasmuch as it was found that the timbers of the *Trusty* were perfectly rotten; and there is a great difference between the resistant power of touchwood and sound oak or teak.

THE PRINCE OF WALES' VISIT TO CANADA.—It has been determined, in order to give greater éclat to the visit of the Prince of Wales to Canada, that his Royal Highness shall not only be attended by a Secretary of State, but by his Majesty's first great officer of the household, and one who has been a Lord Lieutenant of Ireland—thus, to a certain extent, representing the Queen herself.

AID FOR GARIBALDI.—The real character of the American vessel loaded with rifles, whose mysterious appearance in Cork harbour some months ago attracted so little attention, has now become known. She was freighted by the Garibaldi Committee at New York during the Italian war, and her cargo was intended for the General's use; but the unexpected termination of the war prevented its appropriation for that purpose. The vessel has now left Cork, and it is not unlikely that Italy may again be her destination.

PRESENTATION OF MEDALS TO LADY FRANKLIN AND CAPTAIN MCCLINTOCK.—The anniversary meeting of the Royal Geographical Society was held on Monday—Earl De Grey presiding. The most interesting event of the evening was the presentation of the founders' gold medal to Lady Franklin for the self-sacrificing perseverance in sending out expeditions to ascertain the fate of her husband and the ships under his command; and of the council's gold medal to Captain Sir F. M. McClintock. The presentation was made to Lady Franklin (who was not present) through Sir R. Murchison, who read a letter written by that lady on being apprised of the honour the society proposed to do her. She said:—"In giving expression to my natural feelings on receiving this precious medal, you will feel assured that its chief value to me is the recognition by the most competent authorities, which it testifies to, of the lifelong services of my husband in the cause of geographical research, and especially of the crowning discovery of the North-West Passage by himself and his companions, which cost them their lives. In the contemplation of so just and so generous an act towards the dead all personal considerations are well-nigh absorbed, yet not so entirely that I feel deeply the great and exceptional kindness of which I have myself become the object. Declining, as I must ever do, all merit for efforts which originated in the natural impulses of love and duty, and which never could have been successful without the steadfast help of all those who upheld and served me so well, I shall not the less cherish, with great pride as well as gratitude, the touching and distinguished proof so generously accorded to me of the approbation and sympathy of the Royal Geographical Society."—Sir F. McClintock made a brief and earnest address on receipt of the council medal from the hands of the president.



GROUP OF VICUNAS RECENTLY ADDED TO THE GARDENS OF THE ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

VICUNAS IN THE GARDENS OF THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Of the secondary group of camels peculiar to America this species, inhabiting the highest points of the Southern Andes, is the most celebrated for the fineness of the wool it affords the manufacturer. In size it is much below the others, not measuring more than two feet eight inches at the shoulder. It is light of form, the body short, with a long, slender neck; the eyes are very large, dark, and prominent; and the face and nose small and rounded. It exhibits great liveliness and even vehemence of character, but is easily intimidated, even to stupor. A specimen taken from its native hills to the warmer zone of country near the sea seemed to bear the heat with uneasiness—it refused water, was petulant, and offered to bite; it preferred sweet potatoes to other vegetables. The specimens now in the gardens of the Zoological Society, from which our Engraving is taken, seem to thrive well on grass, hay, &c.

Except in point of size the vicuna much more resembles its Asiatic congener than do the lamas, alpacas, and guanacoës. The long and meagre

limbs, the curved neck, and rounded back offer strong points of resemblance to the camel. On a nearer approach its full, bright eye, and a certain lithesome grace, to which the camel is certainly a stranger, seem to ally it to the antelope.

The fleece of these animals, well known in commerce, is an object of importance in South America, though, with their habitual improvidence, the Indian and Spaniard alike prefer the destruction of the animals in the chase to the more lasting advantage of rearing them in flocks. The mode hitherto adopted to obtain them, it is said, was by stretching ropes, to which bunches of feathers were attached, across the passes of the valleys below their abodes, and driving them down in the required direction till they came upon these objects, when, like the fallow deer of Europe, the herd would stop in terror at the fluttering of the feathers, and wait to be slain or noosed by the lasso, or even taken by the hand.

The group of vicunas represented in the annexed Engraving has been sketched from specimens in the gardens of the Zoological Society, these being the first examples, we believe, that have been introduced into this country.

FASHIONS FOR JUNE.

AMONG the new manufactures appropriate for summer dresses gaze Chambéry is likely to enjoy high favour. Its texture is light and transparent, without being exceedingly thin, and it does not soon lose its primitive freshness. For dresses of gaze Chambéry, plain colours, as blue, pink, green, or lilac, are preferred to mixed hues. In mousseline de soie many new and elegant patterns have been introduced.

A robe of mousseline de soie recently made by a fashionable milliner may be here described. It is a chequered pattern of violet colour on a white ground, and over the chequers are white bouquets in raised silk. The dress has six flounces, cut the bias way, and edged with violet-coloured silk. The flounces go quite round the lower part of the skirt, and are carried up the front in the tablier style. Over the skirt there is a tunic, rounded at the corners, and edged with a quilling of mousseline the soie, finished at each side with violet-coloured silk. The corsage is half high, and a long sash of violet ribbon is fastened in front of the waist by a gold buckle.

In Paris, dresses of black poulx de soie have recently been made in a novel and elegant style—viz., with side trimmings composed of two



FASHIONS FOR JUNE.—WALKING DRESS.

rows of magnificent broad ribbon passing down each side of the skirt. The ribbon employed for this trimming has a black ground, figured with flowers in variegated hues. Rows of black lace complete these side trimmings, which are exceedingly rich in effect.

Bonnets are frequently made with the fronts and crowns of two different materials. Our Illustration (Fig. 2) shows one of these novelties. Fronts of paille de riz, and crowns of white crape and blonde in bouillonés, are very fashionable, and extremely elegant in effect. For a plain style of walking dress, bonnets of leghorn, chip, or straw, simply trimmed with ribbon, are those most generally adopted.

The newest mantelets that have as yet made their appearance for the summer season are somewhat of the form called the scarf-mantelet, and are made of silk, either black or coloured. They are trimmed with ruffles of silk at the back, and in front they form long ends, which are finished by flounces of silk. Black lace and jet are much employed for trimming black mantelets.

THE ILLUSTRATIONS.

Fig. 1.—Dress of violet-coloured taffety. The dress has five flounces cut out at the edges, and each headed by a narrow ruche. The corsage is plain, and has two points in front of the waist. The sleeves are edged with two narrow frills corresponding with the flounces on the skirt. At the back part of the sleeve these frills are carried up in a point nearly to the height of the shoulder. Bonnet of white tulle and crape, with a fançon of black lace over the crown. On one side a small tuft of lilac feathers. The under trimming is a bandeau formed of small bows of lilac ribbon, and ruffles of white blonde at each side of the face. Strings of broad white sarcenet ribbon.

Fig. 2.—Large mantelet of black lace, with two broad flounces of Chantilly. Dress of Pompadour silk, the ground cream colour, figured with sprigs in variegated hues. The skirt of the dress is without any trimming, and the corsage is high and plain. The sleeves are of the pagoda form. The bonnet is of two materials—the front being paille

de riz, and the crown and bavolet are of light green taffety. It is trimmed with ruffles of green silk, and on one side a bouquet of flowers.

Fig. 3.—Robe of grey silk of a peculiarly novel design. It has the effect of a jupe of one kind of silk and a tunic dress of another; but the whole is woven in one piece in the loom. The lower part and the front of the jupe are of striped grey silk. The tunic is of grey of a lighter hue, scalloped at the edge and gouffered with grey of a darker hue. The sleeves are woven in a style corresponding with the tunic, and trimmed with gouffering. Bonnet of Belgian straw, with a bavolet of black silk. On one side a plume of peacock's feathers. Strings of broad black sarcenet ribbon figured with gold-coloured rings. Collar and sleeves of worked muslin.

Fig. 4.—Robe of pink and white striped muelin. Corsage Suisse, shaped square, and plaited in front. Within the corsage is worn a high chemisette. The skirt of the dress is trimmed with a double row of



CATTLE RETURNING TO THE FARM.—(FROM A PICTURE BY M. DAUBIGNY.)

ouncing set out in festoons, edged and beaded with narrow needlework or guipure. The corsage is without a point at the waist, and a sash of pink ribbon is fastened in a bow and long ends on one side. The sleeves are trimmed with narrow frills, edged with guipure or needlework to correspond with the flounces. Full under-sleeves of white muslin. Bonnet of white crape tulle, trimmed with pink roses.

"THE RETURN TO THE FARM."

"The Return to the Farm" is a pleasing picture, painted by M. Daubigny, who has chosen for his subject one of those natural scenes which are sure to charm us by their very simplicity. There is an air of such perfect repose about the picture that one might almost imagine they heard the last twittering of the birds as they bid the day farewell, and the slow plashing of the kine as they ford the stream on their way homeward, lowing in the still eventide. Not the least striking part of M. Daubigny's treatment of his subject is the admirable way in which he has rendered the straggling pollards which fringe the banks of the stream—wonderfully true to nature. They are so artistically grouped as to give a depth of perspective which adds materially to the general beauty of the picture.

EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

(THIRD NOTICE.)

ON the same wall as the "Claude Duval" hangs Elmore's "Marie Antoinette in the Tuilleries." "They brought the Queen's children to her in order that their presence, by softening the mob, might serve as a buckler to their mother. They placed them in the depth of the window. They wheeled in front of this the council-table. Preserving a noble and becoming demeanour in this dreadful situation, she held the Dauphin before her seated on the table. Madame was at her side." Mr. Elmore has illustrated the above passage with much ability as regards the grouping of the Royal personages to the right of the picture, and has painted an admirable mob of French revolutionary ruffians—many of the faces being, we imagine, studies from the life. But the figure of Marie Antoinette does not recall any one characteristic of Louis XVI.'s Queen; the children are as mean-looking children as could well be imagined, and neither their countenances, nor (above all) their mother's, express the emotion that would be inspired by the circumstances in which they find themselves. On the left, on the other side of the council-table, stands a personage who plays as important a part in the scene represented as Marie Antoinette herself. This is the young girl "of pleasing appearance, and respectfully

attired," who came forward and "bitterly reviled, in the coarsest terms, l'Autrichienne." We admit the respectable attire, but cannot recognise the pleasing appearance. "The Queen," to continue the story, "struck by the contrast between the rage of this young girl and the gentleness of her face, said to her, in a kind tone, 'Why do you hate me? Have I ever done you any injury? . . . The wife of the King, mother of the Dauphin, I am a Frenchwoman in all the feelings of my heart as a wife and mother. I shall never again see my own country. I can only be unhappy or happy in France. I was happy when you loved me.' This gentle reproach affected the heart of the young girl, and her anger was effaced. She asked the Queen's pardon, saying, 'I did not know you; but I see that you are good.'" This long scene, which we have abridged considerably from the extract in the catalogue, contains, with the same surroundings, more than one picture; for Marie Antoinette and the young girl must have looked at one another with very different expressions at the beginning and at the end of their dialogue. Mr. Elmore has judiciously chosen that moment in their interview when the Queen's expostulations are beginning to be attended with success, and the young girl is already repenting of her injustice to her Sovereign. But there is very little dramatic power shown in the treatment of the principal personages; and we repeat that the best thing in the picture is the crowd of hideous insurrectionists.

Mr. Philp has two excellent pictures in the east room. The most popular of them, especially among the ladies, is his "Marriage of the Princess Royal," painted expressly for the Queen. It is wonderful to see what a pleasing, informal picture Mr. Philp has been able to make out of this unpromising subject. Ladies who were present during the august ceremony at the Chapel Royal, and who speak with authority in matters of the toilet, more especially as regards their own, affirm that the costumes of the fair assistants are not historically correct, the artist having been obliged here and there to introduce a certain modification in the colours of their dresses for the sake of the general colour of his picture. Mr. Philp, too, has endowed his *Rouge Croix* with a pair of moustaches which, it is no indiscretion to say, do not adorn Mr. Blanche's countenance in real life. But the portraits are all good, that of Lord Palmerston being, in particular, a capital likeness; and the grouping, which is the chief merit of the work, is managed with admirable skill. We hope it will not be considered disloyal, or in any way unbecoming, if we call attention to the fact that the Queen is represented in this picture as if she were only the senior by a very few years of the Princess Royal. But we suppose it is all right, as her Majesty presents the same juvenile appearance in her effigies on our excellent coinage.

Mr. Philp's second contribution, entitled "Prayer," is the "diploma work" which he deposits in the Academy on his election as Academician. "Prayer" is a fine study of a Spanish girl, with melancholy, deep-set eyes, praying with intense earnestness and fervour.

Mr. Ansell's immense picture of "The Lost Shepherd"—who has just been found, dead in the snow, by his faithful dogs—is one of the most conspicuous in the east-room; but it seems to us that there is much more merit in his unpretending "Buy a Dog, Ma'am?" (west room), in which the dog's face is full of character.

Mr. J. C. Hook, now an Academician elect, has sent four admirable works, of which the east room contains two—"Whose Bread is on the Waters," and "Stand Clear." Each of these pictures represents a marine subject, and Mr. Hook paints the waves of the sea whether calm or in a storm, the sailors, young and old, rowing lustily or just preparing to leap on shore; the shingly beach, the rocks, and the overhanging crags and cliffs, with astonishing power and brilliancy, and with a fidelity of expression which can scarcely be equalled. Mr. Hook contributes one landscape, "The Valley of the Moor," by way of showing, we suppose, that, though highly nautical, he is also quite at home on shore; but this is inferior to his fourth picture, suggested by one of Tennyson's most beautiful poems, or rather by those lines in it—

O well for the sailor lad
That he sings in his boat on the bay.

Mr. Hook has painted nothing more beautiful than this charming "Seaside Study."

The English do not excel in historical or religious painting, nor, that we are aware of, do many contemporary artists of other nations, in spite of the special encouragement vouchsafed by the State to those branches, or rather this branch, of art—in Germany for the decoration of the great museums, in France for the embellishment of the churches and cathedrals. The best picture on a religious subject in this year's exhibition is one painted by Mr. Herbert for her Majesty, without a name, but illustrative of this text, "And Mary, rising up in those days, went into the mountainous country with haste;" and again, "Among the lilies moveth in haste the lily of Israel to make known to others the Word which is conceived within her." Mr. Herbert has bestowed much minute labour on the "mountainous country," and the pure and tender "lily of Israel" looks more pure and more tender from being seen in the midst of the stony desert. The face of the Virgin is exquisitely gentle and beautiful, and is not copied or imitated from any of the Italian Madonnas, which can scarcely be said of any of the Virgins by Ingres or by Delacroix.

There are several—indeed, far too many—specimens of the secular-historical style in the gallery. We have already spoken, on the whole, in terms of praise of Mr. Elmore's "Marie Antoinette in the Tuileries." Of the other productions of the same class the largest, and partly for that reason the most offensive, is Mr. Lucy's "Lord Saye and Sele Arraigned before Jack Cade and his Mob." This work is weakly conceived and coarsely and vulgarly executed, so much so that the refined and benevolent Saye and Sele might almost pass for Jack Cade himself. Mr. S. A. Hart, R.A., is also in the historical line, but he has neither a dramatic nor even a picturesque feeling for historical events.

The exhibition contains the usual number of moral pictures, or pictures "with a purpose," as people used to say of certain canting books and periodicals during the dull and stupid days of the Peace Society and the "People's Journal." Teaching by means of pictures is, to say the least, a very roundabout mode of giving instruction; and this consideration alone might cause artists to inquire of themselves whether it lies within their province to inculcate in painting that which can be expressed far more clearly, and in a thousandth part of the time, in writing. The most notable examples of "moral painting" in the exhibition are Mr. Osborn's "Governess," which, we understand, has been purchased by the Queen—and Mr. Solomon's "Drowned! Drowned!" These lines from Longfellow's "Evangeline," are supposed to be applicable to some governess who ought to be a type of her class:—

Fair was she, and young; but alas! before her extended,
Dreary, and vast, and silent, the desert of life, with its pathway
Marked by the graves of those who had sorrowed and suffered before her.

Sorrow and silence are strong, and patient endurance is Godlike.

The truths conveyed in the last line are indisputable; but the one we have italicised, as applied by Mr. Osborn, has really no meaning. In the picture the governess, who is a quiet, ladylike girl, is of course dressed in black silk—the *costume de rigueur* of all governesses in pictures, in novels, and on the stage. A fat, vulgar woman, of the low-tradesman class, is abusing and probably swearing at the young girl; while the children are pointing, grimaicing, or extending their tongues at her. This amount of insult she is bearing as no decently brought-up girl would bear it, and as no governess need bear it who has really any requirements—that is to say, the power of obtaining an engagement in a respectable family.

Mr. Solomon's "Drowned! Drowned!" has already been described in this Journal. It is not true to life, but conventionally melodramatic, and, worse than all, displays but little power in the execution.

There are fewer portraits in this year's exhibition than usual—a fact on which we congratulate the public, and for which we must thank the committee intrusted with the duty of accepting or rejecting the works sent in. There are, however, far too many as it is. We may divide them into three classes. First, there are the portraits of unknown, unimportant, vulgar-looking persons by artists of mediocre ability. Of these uninteresting and too often repulsive works of art, or no art, the most familiar type is the likeness of some fat and pompous alderman in his civic robes of scarlet and gold. Or it may be the alderman's wife or some other lady without beauty or grace, or any of those attractions in the absence of which a woman may, no doubt, be a very estimable woman, and may even have a right to have her portrait painted, but is certainly not justified in having it publicly exhibited.

"You are very ugly," said A, meeting B in the street.

"I cannot help it," replied B, with all humility.

"No," returned A, "but you might stop at home."

We do not, for our part, go the length of maintaining that ugliness should be imprisoned, but it is very unbecoming on the part of obscure, ill-favoured persons to obtrude their images upon the public. A true artist would not condescend to paint such characterless, ineane figures—such veritable scarecrows in some instances—as even our best portrait-painters do not blush to represent. Nor do they even content themselves with that, for, to repeat what we have already said, and which we especially protest against, they, in the coolest manner possible, send their unpleasant representations to any exhibition opened for the purpose of instructing and delighting the public. When, however, we come to a second class of portraits—those of obscure but not absolutely hideous persons, executed by artists of talent—in these, we excuse the want of

interest in the subject for the sake of the cleverness, perhaps even the power, shown by the painter. Such works are quite admissible, and occasionally, when the unknown one has some character in his face, we may meet with a picture of this kind which produces the same sort of impression (of course in a minor degree) that is caused by one of Rembrandt's or Vandyck's, Raphael's, or Titian's portraits—those masterly productions which are always justly described as "portraits of men," and not "portraits of gentlemen," as in the catalogues of our annual exhibitions.

Finally there are, or rather might be, the portraits of remarkable men or beautiful women by artists of genius.

As when a painter, poring on a face,
Divinely through all hindrance finds the man
Behind it, and so paints him that his face,
The shape and colour of a mind and life,
Lives for his children ever at its best
And fullest.

These we do not expect to find, and portraits of the first class (which abound) are not worth mentioning. Of the second class several specimens are contributed by Mr. Grant, Mr. Buckner, Mr. Leslie (who has sent a charming portrait of Countess Spencer), Mr. H. Weigall, and others. One of the best and most characteristic portraits in the room, however, is by a foreigner—we mean that of "Herr Karl Deichmann," the violinist and composer, by M. Girardot. In this work the expression of the face and the attitude (Herr Deichmann holds his violin in one hand, and with a pen in the other is about to note down a musical idea) are alike admirable.

(To be continued.)

OPERAS, CONCERTS, AND NEW MUSIC.

THE finest performance of any one operatic part heard, or which is likely to be heard, this season is that of Arsace in "Semiramide," by Mdle. Alboni. This, it will be remembered, is the character in which Mdle. Alboni made her debut in London thirteen years ago, on the opening night of the Royal Italian Opera. The world has seen strange things since 1847—not only strange contraltis, but strange rulers and insurrections, and wars and alliances; and there have been a good many changes for the worse. But, in the midst of these alterations and deteriorations, the voice of Mdle. Alboni remains as pure and as beautiful as ever. If somewhat less fresh and less full than it was thirteen years ago, it is, on the other hand, more even, and her perfect voice was never nearer to absolute perfection than it is at present. With Mdle. Alboni's art a singer possessing a far less beautiful organ than belongs to her might still be a great singer; for Mdle. Alboni has not only the richest natural gifts, but also the most consummate command of them. Indeed, in her knowing so well how to turn her vocal resources to the best account lies the secret of her remaining what she was in the year 1847—the first vocalist of the day.

Mdle. Titiens sings and acts with admirable dramatic effect in the part of Semiramide, which is, however, not one of her best. Everardi and Belart are efficient as Assur and Idreno. The orchestra is not good.

If the finest performance this season of any one part has been witnessed at her Majesty's Theatre, the finest performance of any one opera has taken place at Covent Garden, and took place, first of all, on Saturday last, when "La Gazza Ladra" was revived.

It is worth while going to the Royal Italian Opera when "La Gazza Ladra" is performed, if only to hear its charming overture, executed, as it is, to perfection, by Mr. Costa's band. There is this advantage, too, about the performance of the overture to the "Gazza Ladra" at Covent Garden—that it is always repeated. It is only at the Royal Italian Opera that an overture of Rossini can be heard to all possible advantage, and only at that theatre that an overture is, by any chance, redemanded. Operatic managers who think it a wise economy to engage unreasonably inefficient performers, on reasonable terms, for their orchestras, will do well to take note of this—that the audience at the Royal Italian Opera is proverbially cold, and yet that it applauds enthusiastically a long instrumental composition, and even encores it. It would appear from this that the performance of a really fine band makes a powerful impression on the public, and not to have one in an opera is to neglect a special and separate means of delighting an audience, to say nothing of its value—(indispensableness, though a long word, is, perhaps the correct one)—as an element of general success. The cast of "La Gazza Ladra" is excellent, including, as it does, Mdme. Nantier-Didiée, Mdme. Penco, Ronconi, Faure, and other singers of less note. Mdme. Nantier-Didiée's Peppo, of which we spoke at length last season, is one of that accomplished artist's most charming impersonations. Mdme. Penco, who replaces Mdme. Lotti della Santa, and appears now (for the first time in England) as Ninetta, is a vocalist of general utility, and an improvement on Mdme. Lotti, in so far that she knows how to sing. She does not spoil the music of Ninetta, but the part has no poetry as rendered by her. M. Faure deserves a word of commendation for his singing, and another for his acting. As to Ronconi's Podesta, every one knows that it is one of his finest characters.

The programme at the Monday Popular Concert of this week was made up entirely of vocal and instrumental compositions by the Italian masters anterior to Rossini. Out of the fifteen pieces performed only two had been heard before at the Monday Popular Concerts: these were an air from Salieri's "Tarare" and one of the quartets written by Rossini in his youth. The concert commenced with a quartet by Boccherini, a composer of the eighteenth century, which has been fancifully likened to "a young girl who, in a sportive mood, has put on her grandmother's cap and appendages; the dress alone is antique, the ideas are as new and fresh as those of yesterday." The quartet was executed by MM. Becker, Ries, Blagrove, and Piatti, and a sonata by the same composer for two violoncellos was performed later in the evening by MM. Piatti and Schroder. Miss Arabella Goddard played a sonata by Clementi, and three of the "Lessons" of Domenico Scarlatti, including the fugue in G minor, popularly known as the "Cat's Fugue," of which the subject is supposed to have been suggested by the sequence of notes a cat happened to strike in her "flight" across the keys of a piano. Miss Goddard, whose versatility as a pianist is especially remarkable, is heard to as much advantage in the old music of Clementi and Scarlatti as in the compositions of the modern German masters, not to mention the elaborate fantasias, in which she herself probably takes less pleasure than those who listen to and applaud her brilliant execution of them. The sonata and the lessons were both received with much favour, and at the conclusion of each the pianist was enthusiastically recalled. The vocal music was chiefly selected from the operas of Paesello (who succeeded Piccini, and was himself displaced by Rossini—a composer not likely to be dethroned); of Jomelli, Piccini's predecessor, and the most learned and at the same time the most genial composer of his day; of Piccini himself; of Salieri, the contemporary and bitter opponent of Mozart; and, finally, of Blangini, one of the most fertile inventors of melody that ever lived. An air, by Salvator Rosa, the painter, was also included in the concert, which was as interesting an entertainment, both in an historical and in an absolutely musical point of view, as ever was given. The execution of the vocal music was all that could be desired, the singers being Mdle. Euphrosyne Parepa, Mdme. Laura Baxter, Mr. Tennant, and Mr. Santley. Naturally the room was crowded.

A Brussels musical paper entitled *Le Guide* (may we be saved from such guides!) published, a week or two since, an account of the death of Herr Rudolph Schachner, the distinguished pianist and composer. Herr Schachner, we are happy to say, is in London alive and well; probably not much amused, but certainly not in the least injured, by the report of his own death.

Rubinstein, the Russian pianist, about whose talent such very different opinions, in such very strong language, have been expressed, is also reported to be dead; and we regret to add that we cannot trace the news of his death to the *Guide Musical* of Brussels, or we should

at once conclude that he was living. We fear that it is only too true that Rubinstein expired suddenly, about ten days since, at Leipsic. Such was the announcement made last week in several places, and it has not been contradicted.

There is no doubt about Herr Lubeck being alive, but there appears to be some slight difficulty in determining the precise place that should be assigned to him in the hierarchy of pianists. The most competent judges—the critics of the *Times* and *Post*—seem to think that he cannot play well, but that he can play with sufficient noisiness and rapidity to render the defects in his playing imperceptible to that conglomeration of nobodies known as "the general public." Others, who apparently consider that the great object of art is to astonish, and who are, perhaps, themselves dazzled by the brilliancy, or, to speak more correctly, startled by the boisterousness, of Herr Lubeck's performance, proclaim him a pianist of the highest order. If so, it would equally follow that the greatest tragedian is he who never ceases to rant, the greatest poet he who keeps his Pegasus perpetually prancing.

Pianists, singers, and musical artists of all kinds, continue to arrive in London; the last important arrival being that of Mdle. Désirée Artot, who, whether in dramatic scenes, such as those of Meyerbeer, or in the more thoroughly vocal music of Rossini, has proved herself an artist of the highest merit.

THE LATE STORM.

THE gale of Sunday and Monday told with most disastrous effect upon the shipping off the coast, and the destruction of life and property has been truly appalling. As far as the present accounts go, no fewer than one hundred and fifty wrecks and casualties occurred during its ravages. Several steamers are missing, and one, on an excursion trip, foundered with eighty people on board. The steamers from the North Sea report that the gale almost equalled the hurricane which swept the coast in the latter part of October. The cattle-boats from Hamburg, Rotterdam, Flushing, and other Dutch ports, had most of their live stock washed overboard, amounting to some hundreds. The decks were swept, bulwarks stove, sails split, and boats carried away, and in some instances it is a miracle how the ship outlived the storm.

It was upon the eastern and north-eastern range of coast that the gale produced such dreadful results. During the height of the hurricane on Monday, about midday, eight ships, having from forty to fifty souls on board, went down in the sight of thousands of spectators on Yarmouth beach. In the adjacent roadstead, off Lowestoft, there were hundreds of colliers and coasters; and the confusion amongst them to run for a place of refuge was most exciting, and led to innumerable collisions. Upwards of fifty put into the harbour with the loss of sails, anchors, cables, and other damage. Off Southwold a large brig was seen to founder, eight miles from the shore; and the worst fears are entertained for the fate of the crew.

Higher up the coast, to the northward of Flamborough Head, the most serious havoc was occasioned. On the south shore of Filey Bay thirteen fine yawls were driven on to the rocks at Speeton, entailing a loss of upwards of £10,000 to the fishermen of the place. In the neighbourhood of Redcar, at the mouth of the Tees Bay, about twenty-five sail were driven ashore with great loss of life. A fine barque was driven ashore four or five miles to the northward of Hartlepool, and speedily went to pieces, the master and six of his crew perishing with her.

A tug-steamer, named the *Robert and Mary*, belonging to Sunderland, is supposed to have foundered, with all on board. Several ships were blown ashore near Liverpool, and great loss and confusion was occasioned in the harbour by vessels breaking from their anchors, and fouling each other. At Shields two wrecks are reported.

A Belgian steamer which arrived in the Thames on Wednesday reported a frightful catastrophe on the coast at Flushing, where a Dutch steamer, bound on an excursion from Rotterdam to Zwolle, encountered the hurricane and foundered with all on board. The number who perished is stated to be about eighty. Another steamer was lost about the same time at Scherrening—the *Theresa* screw-steamer, on a voyage from Leith to Rotterdam, but no mention is made of her crew. It is feared that other English vessels were wrecked on the Dutch coast.

Inland the gale did great damage, especially to fruit-trees. One life was lost at Scarborough by the fall of a house; and disastrous reports from Bradford, Manchester, Wakefield, Thirsk, York, Ripon, and other places, attest that the storm took a pretty wide range. At Northallerton snow fell.

The storm was felt severely in the metropolis on Monday. The river was so rough that the steam-boats reached their destinations only with difficulty. At Lambeth, Battersea, and other places on the Surrey side of the river, several houses were partially inundated. Some houses were unroofed, and stacks of chimneys were blown down. Many of the trees in the parks have been injured.

DIPLOMATIC GOSSIP.—We read in a letter from St. Petersburg:—"Since the communication made by Prince Gortschakoff to the Ambassadors of the four Powers the English and Austrian Ministers have taken great pains to acquire a proof and to ascertain the bearing of a pretended convention concluded between Russia and France. I believe I can assure you that there are no fixed stipulations agreed on between France and Russia. There is a general convention, very vague in its terms, and not containing any stipulation respecting any other Power. The Cabinet of St. Petersburg entertains views on certain questions which are far from being agreeable to the Cabinet of the Tuileries, but, on the contrary, differ from the ideas of the Emperor Napoleon. I am assured that the Cabinet of St. Petersburg counts upon the adhesion of Prussia to its plans. The French Government expects to protect the interests of the Christians in the East by a common intervention of the Powers which signed the Treaty of Paris without the exclusion of any; but nobody believes that Russia sincerely desires to pursue that course. Notwithstanding this difference of opinion, and the surprising vivacity exhibited by Prince Gortschakoff on reviving this question, I can assure you there is no reason to apprehend an arbitrary encroachment on the part of Russia. It is believed here that neither Austria nor Prussia will refuse her co-operation to improve the miserable condition of the Christians."

SPECIAL TRAINS FOR PRIZE-FIGHTS.—Some correspondence has been printed which took place last year between the Government and the South-Eastern Railway Company, from which it appears that the directors, in a letter to the Home Office, written in consequence of an extract from the quarterly report of the chief constable of Kent having been forwarded to them, assured the Government that the train arrangements which had been complained of were made without their knowledge or authority, and that they had taken steps to prevent any facilities being granted in future to enable people to attend a prize-fight. Six months later in the year a magistrate represented that there had been a special train to Etchingham for another prize-fight (between Sayers and Brettie), and when the police on the spot applied at the Etchingham station to telegraph to other police-stations in order to collect their force they were told that the telegraph would be occupied for some hours. The directors replied that the application for tickets for the ordinary train on that morning were so numerous that it was necessary to divide the train into two portions, separating into a distinct or special train those who had taken tickets for Etchingham, but that the company must carry by their regular trains all who presented themselves; and that, as to the telegraph, the reply given at Etchingham was that the instrument at the time was in use between two other stations, and as soon as it was at liberty there were thirty-seven messages waiting to be sent off before the police message could go. Here the correspondence ends.

THE RELIGIOUS DISSENSIONS IN ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST.—Vigorous measures were taken by the churchwardens of St. George's on Sunday night for the repression of any riotous proceedings. Every boy or girl who had the appearance of a rioter (boys and girls having been the principal disturbers) was refused admission. An exception was made in the case of those who had Prayer-books. About four hundred young persons were turned away, and there was no crowding in the body of the church, inasmuch as directly the pews were filled no other persons were allowed to enter, all newcomers being directed to the galleries, which were kept in something like order by a small body of police. The choristers were refused admission within the altar-rails, directions to that effect having been given by the Bishop, and they were consequently placed in the organ-loft, five clegymen occupying the apse, the Rector (the Rev. Bryan King) being amongst them. There was no procession of priests and choristers, the Bishop having issued a prohibition against this part of the ceremonial. When the Rev. F. G. Lee entered the reading-desk he was assailed with a loud howl, which was kept up at intervals during the prayers. The sermon was preached by the Rev. H. Blaker, Curate of St. Mary's, Lambeth-burys, who selected as his text the 14th chapter of St. John's Gospel, verse 16. The text was received with loud cries of "Hear, hear!" "Bravo!" and desisive cheers. There were the usual disturbances at the close of the service.

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